



Austro-Hungarian  
Orders, Medals and Decorations  
Volume III: Decorations  
Part III



by  
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## Ecclesiastic Merit Cross (Geistliches Verdienstkreuz)



**Date Issued:** November 23, 1801-1918

**Reason Issued:** To recognize distinguished wartime service by army Field Chaplains. In order to qualify this service had to involve self-sacrifice and bravery while administering to the troops either under fire or in the battle area. The cross was also issued as a reward many years of meritorious service as a chaplain in peacetime.

**Classes or Types:** This cross was issued in two classes and two grades within each until December 6, 1916 when swords were added to the award thus creating three grades in each class.

- First Class on war ribbon with swords, (after December 16, 1916) (Gold Ecclesiastic Merit Cross)
- First Class on war ribbon, (November 23, 1801-1918) (Gold Ecclesiastic Merit Cross)
- First Class on civil ribbon, (1880-1918) (Gold Ecclesiastic Merit Cross)
- Second Class on war ribbon with swords, (after December 16, 1916) (Silver Ecclesiastic Merit Cross)
- Second Class on war ribbon, (November 23, 1801-1918) (Silver Ecclesiastic Merit Cross)
- Second Class on civil ribbon, (1880-1918) (Silver Ecclesiastic Merit Cross)

**Interesting Facts:**

- This is the first and oldest official Austrian decoration in the form of a cross
- The crosses were created at the suggestion of the Apostolic Field Vicar, Count Von Hohenwerth
- The crosses were first awarded retroactively for the wars with the French Republic in 1790
- This cross was authorized to replace previously awarded Military Honor Medals that although not exactly appropriate had been issued to reward military ecclesiastics for meritorious services.
- Those holding merit medals had to surrender them in order to receive the cross
- The original crosses were gold and silver respectively but after 1911 were gold gilt over silver and silver gilt
- The center medallion of the gold cross was changed from blue enamel to white in 1859

- The crosses were renamed from Gold and Silver crosses to First Class and Second Class respectively on May 9, 1911
- Crosses could be awarded posthumously







## Ecclesiastic Merit Cross (Geistliches Verdienstkreuz)



Image courtesy of Dorotheum

### Interesting Facts (continued)

- On May 9, 1911 when the award was renamed and the criteria for issuing it was altered there were no surviving previous recipients
- Upon the death of the recipient the crosses had to be returned to the War Ministry (Oberstkammeramt)

### Hallmarks:

- The Mark of Vinc Mayer and Sons
- The Mark of Friedrich Rothe
- The Vienna Essay Office Mark

**Design:** A Latin Passion Cross with trefoils at the ends and a round ball shaped suspension eye on the top arm.

**Obverse:** The arms of the cross have a deep groove (2 mm) inside the edge which follows the contour of the cross. A second finer and shallower outline lies within the first. In the center of the cross is a 16 mm round, applied medallion with an edge in the same material as the cross. The medallion is enameled white for the first class crosses and blue for the second class crosses. The center medallion has an inscription in the same metal as the cross. The inscription reads **PIIS / MERITIS** (Pius Merit) in two lines.

**Reverse:** The reverse of the cross including the center medallion is the same as the obverse.

### Weight:

- Gold Cross Type I: 20.5 grams
- Gold Cross Type II: 20.5 grams
- Gold Cross Type III: 28 grams
- Silver Cross Type I: 17 grams
- Silver Cross Type II: 20.5 grams
- Silver Cross Type III: Unknown

### Size:

- Type I gold and silver crosses issued from 1801 - 1859 are 53 mm long and 44 mm wide.
- Type II gold and silver crosses issued from 1859 - 1878 are 58 mm long and 51 mm wide with arms that are 8 mm in width and trefoils that are 17 mm in diameter.
- Type III gold and silver crosses issued from September 5, 1911-1918 are 58 mm long and 51 mm wide with arms that are 8 mm in width and trefoils that are 16 mm in diameter.



Image courtesy of Dorotheum





## Ecclesiastical Merit Cross (Geistliches Verdienstkreuz)



Type I Cross



Type II Cross



Type III Cross

### Type of Material:

- Gold and enamel
- Gilt silver and enamel
- Silver and enamel
- Silver gilt bronze and enamel

### Variations:

- Type I Gold Cross: As described above with a 20 mm blue center medallion and gilt script inscription and a round suspension ring. The reverse of the cross is plain. This is the first type of cross which was issued from 1801 - 1859.
- Type II Gold Cross: As described above with a white 17 mm in diameter center medallion with a script inscription and a round suspension ring. The size of this cross is 58 mm long and 51 mm wide. This second type of cross was issued from 1859 - 1878.
- Type III Gold Cross: As described above with a 16 mm white center medallion with block letter inscription and a ball shaped suspension eye. The size of this cross is 53 mm long and 48 mm wide. This third type of cross was issued from September 5, 1911– 1918.
- Type IV Gold Cross: As described above with a blue or white center medallion and a spade shaped suspension ring. This cross has a separate plaque attached to the upper arm of the cross with the word **PIUS** engraved in it. This type of cross was issued from 1801 – 1880
- Type I Silver Cross: As described above with a 20 mm blue center medallion and a spade shaped suspension ring. This is the first type of cross which was issued from 1801 - 1880.
- Type II Silver Cross: As described above with an 17 mm in diameter blue center medallion and a round suspension ring. The size of this cross is 58 mm long and 51 mm wide. This second type cross was issued from 1880 - 1911.



Type II Cross





## Ecclesiastic Merit Cross (Geistliches Verdienstkreuz)



### Variations (continued):

- Type III Silver Cross: As described above with a 16 mm blue center medallion with block lettering and a ball shaped suspension ring. The size of this cross is 53 mm long and 48 mm wide. This type cross was issued from 1911 - 1918.

**Designer:** Unknown

### Manufacturer:

- Vincent Mayer and Sons
- Freidrich Rothe
- Johann Hollauer von Hohenfelsen

### Number Issued:

- Gold Cross = 75 from 1801 to 1918
  - ◊ 1801 to 1859 = 57
  - ◊ 1864 to 1866 = 8
  - ◊ 1866 to 1911 = 1
  - ◊ 1915 to 1918 = 9
- Silver Cross = 1,990 from 1801 to 1918
  - ◊ 1801 to 1911 = 55
  - ◊ 1914 to 1918 = 1,935

### Order of Precedence:

- The Ecclesiastic Cross, first class, is number 29 after the Red Cross Honor Insignia, First Class and before the Decoration of the Elizabeth Theresia Military Academy
- The Ecclesiastic Cross, second class on war ribbon, is number 33 and come after the Honor Insignia for Arts and Sciences and before the Great Military Merit Medal



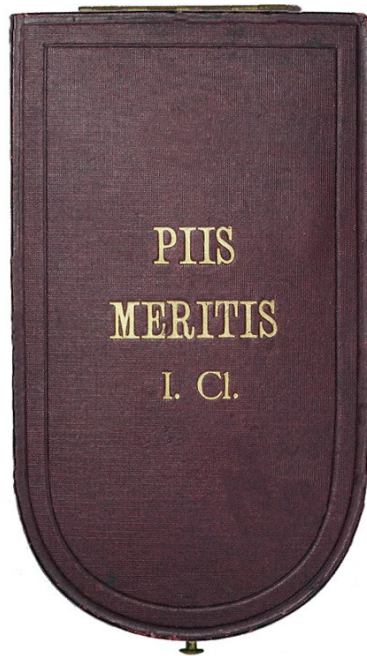




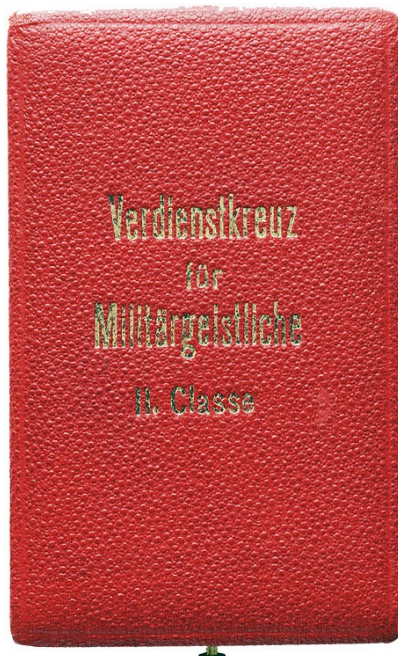
### Ecclesiastic Merit Cross (Geistliches Verdienstkreuz)

#### Case:

- Post 1860 Ecclesiastic Cross Case Type I: A maroon simulated leather case with an embossed line following the contour of the external top of the case. The top also has the name of the medal and the class in gold letters. The inside of the top is white silk and often has the makers logo in gold. The inside of the bottom of the case is black velvet. This type case is known to have been used by Vinc Mayer and Sohn.



- Post 1860 Ecclesiastic Cross Case Type II: A red simulated leather case. The top has the name of the medal and the class in gold letters. The inside of the top is white silk and often has the makers logo in gold. The inside of the bottom of the case is white velvet.





## Ecclesiastic Merit Cross (Geistliches Verdienstkreuz)

### Case:

- Post 1860 Ecclesiastic Cross Case Type III: A red simulated leather case with an embossed line following the contour of the external top of the case. The top also has the imperial coat of arms in gold. The inside of the top is white silk and often has the makers logo in gold. The inside of the bottom of the case is black velvet. This type case is known to have been used by Rothe & Neffe.



- Post 1860 Ecclesiastic Cross Case Type IV: A purple cardboard simulated leather case. The top has the name of the medal and the class in gold letters. If the award is with swords they are illustrated. The inside of the top is white cardboard. The inside of the bottom of the case is also white cardboard.







## Ecclesiastical Merit Cross (Geistliches Verdienstkreuz)



### Ribbon:

- A 40 mm wide ribbon which for combat service is white with three 8 mm wide red stripes separated by four 4 mm wide white stripes. For non-combatant service the ribbon is white. The ribbon was straight from 1801 to 1848 and tri-fold thereafter.
- A small rectangular ribbon for this decoration was introduced in October 27, 1917.

**Attachments:** On December 13, 1916 bronze gilt crossed swords were authorized to be worn on the ribbon of this cross.







**Ecclesiastic Merit Cross**  
(Geistliches Verdienstkreuz)

**Miniature:**





Ecclesiastic Merit Cross  
(Geistliches Verdienstkreuz)

N<sup>o</sup> 3416

Von Seiner  
kaiserlichen und königlich Apostolischen Majestät  
**Oberstkämmerer**

An Seine Hochwürden den Herrn Feldkuraten in der Reserve  
b.Pspit.605

J o h a n n B I R I C Z

Seine kaiserliche und königlich Apostolische Majestät  
haben Sich mit Allerhöchster Entschliessung  
vom 5. September 1913 bewogen gefunden  
Ihrer Hochwürden das  
Geistliche Verdienstkreuz II. Klasse  
am weissroten Bande  
huldreichst zu verleihen  
Demgemäss wird Ihrer Hochwürden in der Anlage diese  
Dekoration und ein Exemplar der Statuten übermittelt.  
Seiner k. und k. Apostolischen Majestät Oberstkämmerer  
*Leopold Graf Khevenhüller*  
Von Seiner k. und k. Apostolischen Majestät  
Oberstkämmerer - Amte  
Wien, am 24. September 1913  
*Wittthum Franz Wenzers*  
k. u. k. Sekretär des k. u. k. Hofes

Ecclesiastic Cross Certificate





**Ecclesiastic Merit Cross**  
(Geistliches Verdienstkreuz)



**Gold Ecclesiastic Merit Cross Recipients:**

**Vidonia Uprising, 1848**

- Johann von Goldberg

**Tyrol Campaign, 1848**

- Johann Baldauf
- Martin Zotterer

**Hungary Campaign, 1848-49**

- Josef Franz
- Peter Gessiorowski
- Franz Hinovsky
- Nicefor Kriss
- Franz Ponocny
- Hugo Suschitzky

**Italian Campaign, 1848-49**

- Joesf Aksanovic
- Josef Bednarovic
- Georg von Bojtor
- Adolf Czerhas
- Didabus Fantsoovich
- Johann Klerz
- Michail Kutuzow
- Augustine Landt
- Franz Laurentschitsch
- Josef Mashizh
- Johann Michal
- Wenzel Mostl
- Stephan Schaffner
- Josef Schmalzl
- Gustav Turinsky





**Ecclesiastic Merit Cross**  
(Geistliches Verdienstkreuz)



**Gold Ecclesiastic Merit Cross Recipients:**  
**Italian Campaign, 1859**

- Bortolomeo Molner-Veit
- Sabas Poppovicia
- Karl Pospischel
- Dr. Anton Rocei
- Alexander Schmid
- Jacob Schmidt
- Johann Szuphay
- Dionys Thalson
- Franz Tscharmann
- Robert Trykall
- Johann Wichta
- Anton Wolf
- Nickolaus Zitz

**Battle of Magenta, 1859**

- Klement Litynski

**Battle of Arbuguano, 1859**

- Dionys Cserveny

**Battle of Solferino, 1859**

- Karl Bancalari
- Josef Seidl
- Josef Sulak
- Johann Tribaltschick

**Battle of Helgoland, 1864**

- Matthias Sablic

**War in Denmark, 1864**

- Johann Guskiewicz

**Battle of Lissa, 1866**

- Albert Milecetic

**Campaign in Prussia, 1866**

- Anton Czerny
- Ludwig Kiss
- Johann Pospischell
- Karl Salzmann
- Franz Sitarski

**Bosnia & Herzegovina, 1878**

- Thomas Fabian





**Ecclesiastic Merit Cross**  
(Geistliches Verdienstkreuz)



**Gold Ecclesiastic Merit Cross Recipients:**

**World War I, 1914-1918 (Typical recipients)**

- Emmerich Bjelik, Apostolic Field Vicar and Bishop, 1915
- Andreas Vegas, Field Superior First Class, 1915
- Viktor Varady, Field Superior First Class, 1915
- Paul Boldea, Greek Orthodox Field Priest, 1916
- Jan Korsic, Navy Superior, 1916
- Leonard Rendl, Consistory Superintendent for the apostolic vicarage, 1916
- Prince Max Sasy, Dr of Divinity, 1917
- Stephan Proskurnicki, Superintendent of Field Curates, Silver Cross in 1915 and Gold Cross in 1917
- Franz Josef Hammerle, Field Curate, Silver Cross in 1915 and gold Cross in 1918

**Note:** See pre 1848 Volume 2, Part 7, 1792-1804 to see the recipients before 1848







**Ecclesiastic Merit Cross**  
(Geistliches Verdienstkreuz)



**Field Chaplain wearing the Ecclesiastic Cross first class on war ribbon with swords**







**Ecclesiastic Merit Cross**  
(Geistliches Verdienstkreuz)



**Fieldbischof Emmerich Bjelik wearing the Ecclesiastic Cross first class on war ribbon**





**Bronze Military Merit Medal, 1890-1911**  
(Bronzene Militärverdienstmedaille)



**Type I obverse and reverse**

**Date Issued:** March 12, 1890 - 1911

**Reason Issued:** To recognize extraordinary service in time of war or outstanding service in peace time by officers or military officials of an equivalent rank.

**Classes or Types:** This decoration was issued in one class and two types.

- Military Merit Medal on civil ribbon
- Military Merit Medal on war ribbon

**Interesting Facts:**

- This award was only given to officers
- Receipt of the award was as a result of receiving a commendation from the Emperor
- The medal on bravery ribbon and on the civil ribbon could only be awarded once to a recipient
- Both medals if awarded could be worn at the same time with the medal on war ribbon taking precedence
- The medals could be awarded retroactively

**Hallmarks:** None

**Design:** A round medal with a raised rim and an attached hinged crown at the top.

**Obverse:** A bust of the older Emperor Franz Joseph I in high relief facing to the viewers right. In his hair is a wreath of laurel. Around the bust is inscribed:

**FRANCISCVS . IOS . I . D . G . IMP . AVST . REX . BOH . ETC . ET . REX .**

**APOST . HVNG \***. Translation: Franz Joseph I with the Grace of God Emperor of Austria King of Bohemia, etc. and Apostolic King of Hungary. The beginning and end of the inscription is at the bottom of the medal and is separated by a star. Outside of the inscription along the edge of the medal is a wreath composed of 64 laurel leaves. The attached crown is usually hollow with a gold bonnet inside. The crown is hinged and is moveable.

Image courtesy of Dorotheum







## Bronze Military Merit Medal, 1890-1911 (Bronzene Militärverdienstmedaille)

Image courtesy of Dorotheum



Type II reverse



Type VII reverse

**Reverse:** Inside of a raised rim is a fine beaded line following the circumference of the medal. Inside the beaded line is a wreath composed of 30-laurel leaves (left) and 26 oak leaves (right) which is tied at the bottom with a bow. Within the wreath is inscribed, **SIGNVM LAVDIS** (A token of esteem). Below the bow is the designers name **A. Neudeck** (Andreas Neudeck) or **A Scharf** (Anton Scharf). The reverse of the crown is fully detailed.

**Weight:** 27 grams

**Size:** The decoration without crown is 30-32 mm in diameter. The crown is 20 mm high and 19 mm wide. Thus the overall height of the medal is 50-52 mm.

**Type of Material:** Bronze gilt

**Variations:** There are three variations of this medal

- Type I: as described
- Type II: as described except it has the name of the medalist A.Scharff on the obverse and the name of the medalist A Neudeck on the reverse
- Type III: as described except that the number of laurel leaves on the obverse of the medal is 62 (Made by Anton Scharf)
- Type IV: As described except there is no medalist name on the reverse
- Type V: are examples that were privately engraved on the back
- Type VI: are examples that were privately engraved on the rim of the medal
- Type VII: As described above except the reverse is in white plastic.

**Designer:**

- Anton Scharff, the obverse
- Andreas Neudeck, the reverse

**Manufacturer:**

- Hauptmunzamt, Wien (Imperial Mint in Vienna)
- Hauptmunzamt, Kremnitz
- Anton Bachruch

- Vincenz Mayer's Sohne

**Number Issued:** Unknown

**Order of Precedence:** Military Merit Medal, in bronze, is number 36, coming after the Military Merit Medal, in silver and before the Gold Bravery Medal



Images courtesy of Dorotheum



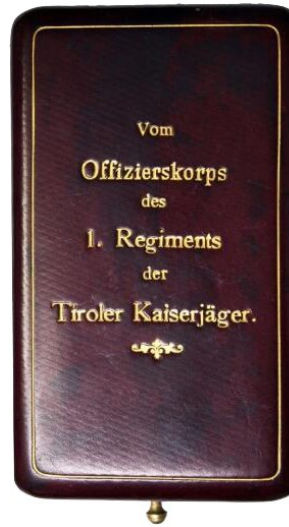
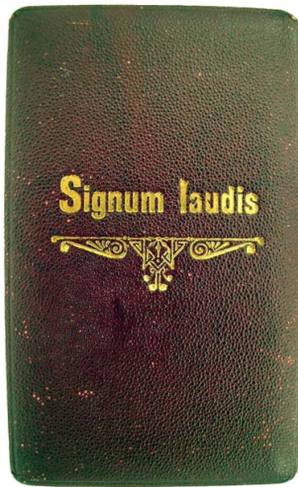
Type VI rim





## Bronze Military Merit Medal, 1890-1911 (Bronzene Militärverdienstmedaille)

**Case:** The decoration came in a wide variety of cases, some of which had a presentation inscription engraved on or within them. (Some of which are illustrated below).



Images courtesy of Dorotheum







A gold medal with a crown on top, suspended from a red and white striped ribbon. The medal features a profile portrait of a man and inscriptions in German.



**Miniature:** known to exist





**Bronze Military Merit Medal, 1890-1911**  
(Bronzene Militärverdienstmedaille)

*K. k. Ministerium für Landesverteidigung.*  
*As 15545 I*

*Lo. Verordnungsblatt Nr. 16.*



Seine

kaiserliche und königliche

**Apostolische Majestät**

haben mit der Allerhöchsten Entschliessung

vom 11. April 1904, allergnädigst anzubefehlen geruht, dass

**Euer Hochwohlgeboren**

in Anerkennung mehrjähriger, besonders eifriger und erfolgreicher Truppendienstleistung, der Ausdruck der Allerhöchsten Zufriedenheit bekannt gegeben werde.

Infolge dieser Allerhöchsten Gnadenbezeugung sind Sie zum Tragen der Militärverdienstmedaille am roten Bande berechtigt.

Wien, am 15. April 1904.

*Handwritten signature*

Der  
Prinzipal-Hochwohlgeborenen  
von Herrn v. d. Jungmann u. Pflaß

Hugo Herwitsch  
aus Landwehrinfanterieregiment Nr. 17.

**Military Merit Medal Award Document issued in 1904**







**Bronze Military Merit Medal, 1890-1911**  
(Bronzene Militärverdienstmedaille)



An Oberst (Colonel) wearing two merit medals, one as awarded in time of war and the other as awarded in peace time





## Military Merit Medal, 1911-1917 (Militärverdienstmedaille)



**Date Issued:** March 26, 1911 - 1918

**Reason Issued:** To recognize extraordinary service in time of war or outstanding service in peace time by officers and military officials of an equivalent rank.

**Classes or Types:** This decoration was issued in two classes and three types.

- Silver Military Merit Medal on civil ribbon (March 26, 1911 - April 18, 1917)
- Silver Military Merit Medal on war ribbon (March 26, 1911 - April 18, 1917)
- Silver Military Merit Medal on war ribbon with swords (after December 13, 1916)
- Bronze Military Merit Medal on civil ribbon (March 12, 1890– 1918)
- Bronze Military Merit Medal on war ribbon (March 12, 1890– 1918)
- Bronze Military Merit Medal on war ribbon with swords (after December 13, 1916)

**Interesting Facts:**

- This award was only given to officers
- Receipt of the award was as a result of receiving a commendation from the Emperor
- The bronze medal on war and civil ribbon could only be awarded once
- The military and civil variations of the medals if awarded could be worn at the same time with the medals on war ribbon having precedence
- The bronze medal was to be returned when the silver medal was received assuming they were on the same ribbon. This requirement was later rescinded.
- The medals could be awarded retroactively

**Hallmarks:**

- Vienna Assay Office mark on the silver decorations
- The word SILBER engraved on the edge of the silver decorations
  - The silver fineness mark on the silver decorations
- The word BRONZE engraved on the edge of the bronze and silver gilt bronze medals
- The Base metal asterisk





## Military Merit Medal, 1911-1917 (Militärverdienstmedaille)



### Hallmarks (continued):

- Rozet & Fischmeister makers mark
- Josef Zimblér makers mark

**Design:** A round medal with a raised rim and an attached hinged crown at the top.

**Obverse:** A bust of the old Emperor Franz Joseph I in high relief facing to the viewers right. In his hair is a wreath of laurel. Around the bust is inscribed: **FRANCISCVS . IOS . I . D . G . IMP . AVST . REX . BOH . ETC . ET . REX . APOST . HVNG .** Translation: Franz Joseph I with the Grace of God Emperor of Austria King of Bohemia, etc. and Apostolic King of Hungary. The beginning and end of the inscription is at the bottom of the medal and is separated by a star. Outside of the inscription along the edge of the medal is a wreath composed of 64 laurel leaves. The attached crown is usually hollow with a metal bonnet inside. The crown articulates with the medal and is moveable.

**Reverse:** Within a wreath composed of 37 laurel leaves on the viewers left and 25 oak leaves on the right and which is tied at the bottom with a bow is inscribed, **SIGNVM LAVDIS** (A token of esteem). The reverse of the crown is fully detailed.

### Weight:

- Gilt Silver Medal: 19–22 grams
- Bronze Gilt Medal: 18–19 grams

**Size:** The decoration without crown is 30–32 mm in diameter. The crown is 20 mm high and 19 mm wide. Thus the overall height of the medal is 50–52 mm.

### Type of Material:

- Silver
- Silver gilt bronze
- Bronze gilt

Image courtesy of Dorotheum







## Military Merit Medal, 1911-1917 (Militärverdienstmedaille)



**Variations:** There are four variations of the silver medal and three variations of the bronze medal

- Silver Medal Type I: as described
- Silver Medal Type II: has a diameter of 31-32 mm and with an obverse portrait of the Emperor that is flatter and less well defined.
- Silver Medal Type III: as Type I except the reverse inscription is SIGNUM LAUDIS
- Silver Medal Type IV: as described in Type I except that the number of laurel leaves on the obverse of the medal is 62 (Made by Anton Scharf)
- Silver Medal Type V: As described in Type I but with the name A Neudeck on the reverse
- Silver Medal Type VI: As described in Type I except there is no medalist name on the reverse
- Silver Medal Type VII: These are privately made are examples that were engraved on the back
- Silver Medal Type VIII: These are privately made examples that were engraved on the rim
- Bronze Medal Type I: as described
- Bronze Medal Type II: as Type I except the reverse inscription is SIGNUM LAUDIS
- Bronze Medal Type III: as Type I except that the number of laurel leaves on the obverse of the medal is 62 (Made by Anton Scharf)
- Bronze Medal Type IV: as Type I except above but with the name A.Scharf on the obverse and A Neudeck on the reverse
- Bronze Medal Type V: as Type I except there is no medalist name on the reverse
- Bronze Medal Type VI: are examples that were privately engraved on the back
- Bronze Medal Type VII: As described above except the reverse is in white celluloid.
- Bronze Medal Type VIII: are examples that were privately engraved on the rim of the medal

**Designer:**

- Anton Scharff, obverse
- Andreas Neudecks, reverse

**Manufacturer:**

- Hauptmunzamt, Wien (Imperial Mint in Vienna)
- Hauptmunzamt, Krennitz
- Anton Bachruch
- Vincenz Mayer's Sohne
- Jozsef Seifert, Pozson
- W, Schaawb & Co (Uniform distributes who made not have made medals but put their logo on cases of medals they sold)
- Rozet & Fischmeister
- Joseph Zimbler

**Number Issued:** Unknown

**Order of Precedence:**

- Military Merit Medal, in silver, is number 35, coming after the Great Military Medal and before the Military Merit Medal in bronze

Type VI reverse



Type VII reverse



Type VIII rim

Image courtesy of Dorotheum





## Military Merit Medal, 1911-1917 (Militärverdienstmedaille)

### Order of Precedence (Continued):

- Military Merit Medal, in bronze, is number 36, coming after the Military Merit Medal in silver and before the Gold Bravery Medal

**Case:** This medal came in a wide variety of cases including special presentation cases, some of which are illustrated below.



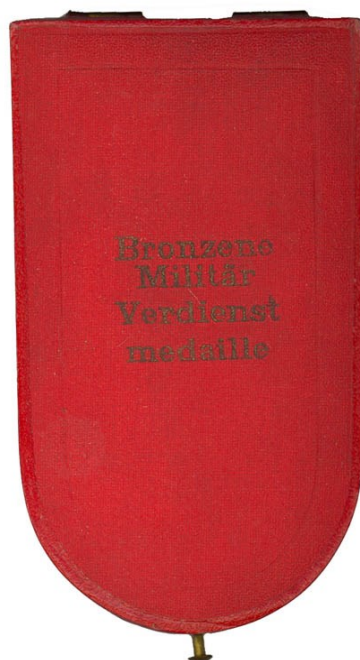




Military Merit Medal, 1911-1917  
(Militärverdienstmedaille)



Case continued:



Picture courtesy of Dorotheum







**Military Merit Medal, 1911-1917**  
(Militärverdienstmedaille)

Case continued:

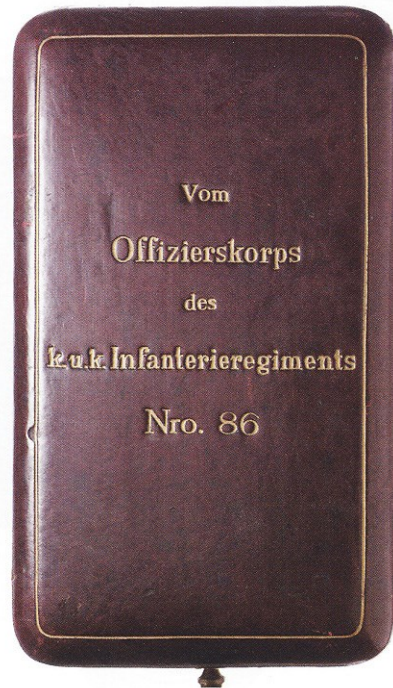


Image courtesy of Dorotheum





## Military Merit Medal, 1911-1917 (Militärverdienstmedaille)



### Attachments:

- On December 13, 1916 bronze gilt crossed swords were authorized to be worn on both the bronze and silver decoration on war ribbon
- On April 1, 1916 trapezoid silver gilt stainless steel clasps 8 mm in width were authorized to designate repeat awards of the silver medals, When the clasp was granted for the medal with swords the swords were worn on the top clasp. Medals are known to exist with 3 bars. The bars were manufactured by Josef Zimmler of Vienna and are engraved on the back with his logo.
  - ◊ Second award: a trapezoid bar 50 mm in length (top edge) and 8 mm in width
  - ◊ Third award: two trapezoid bars: first bar is 50 mm in length at the top edge and the second bar is 40 mm in length (top edge) with both bars being 8 mm wide.
- Occasionally the bars are engraved. The engraving was unofficial.



Picture courtesy of Dorotheum







## Military Merit Medal, 1911-1917 (Militärverdienstmedaille)



**Ribbon:** After October 7, 1915 a 40 mm red and white laddered ribbon for military combatants and a 39 mm crimson red ribbon for civil recipients in a rank/class equivalent to an officer and for military recipients for non-combatant service.

- A small rectangular ribbon for this decoration sometimes issued with small attachments to indicate specific awards was introduced in October 27, 1917.



13 award ribbon bar with Military Merit Medal ribbon





## Military Merit Medal, 1911-1917 (Militärverdienstmedaille)

**Miniature:** known to exist



Image courtesy of Dorotheum



Image courtesy of Dorotheum

### Military Merit medals as worn in a group



Image courtesy of Dorotheum







Military Merit Medal, 1911-1917  
(Militärverdienstmedaille)



Bronze Military Merit Medal on War Ribbon Certificate 1915






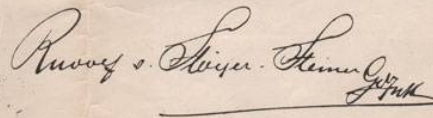


**Military Merit Medal, 1911-1917**  
(Militärverdienstmedaille)

K. u. k. Kriegsministerium.  
Präs. Nr. 15.485.

PVBl. Nr. 113.



SEINE  
KAISERLICHE UND KÖNIGLICHE  
**APOSTOLISCHE MAJESTÄT**  
HABEN  
MIT ALLERHÖCHSTER ENTSCHLIESZUNG  
vom 9. Juni 1917  
allernädigst anzuordnen geruht, daß  
**Euer Hochwohlgeboren**  
für tapferes Verhalten vor dem Feinde  
**Anerkennung**  
die Allerhöchste belobende Anerkennung  
bekanntgegeben werde.  
Hiemit sind Euer Hochwohlgeboren zum Tragen der  
**silbernen Militärverdienstmedaille am Bande  
des Militärverdienstkreuzes**  
mit den Schwertern  
berechtigt.  
W I E N , am 11. Mai 1917.  
Der Kriegsminister:  
  
An  
den Herrn k.u.k. Oberleutnant des Infanterieregiments Nr. 47  
A l e x i u s C E L L E .

**Silver Military Merit Medal on War Ribbon Certificate 1917**





**Military Merit Medal, 1911-1917**  
(Militärverdienstmedaille)



**General of Infantry Sandor Freiherr von Szurmay wearing two silver Military Merit Medals**  
**Silver Military Merit Medal on war ribbon with swords**  
**Silver Military Merit Medal on Civil Ribbon**





**Military Merit Medal, 1911-1917**  
(Militärverdienstmedaille)



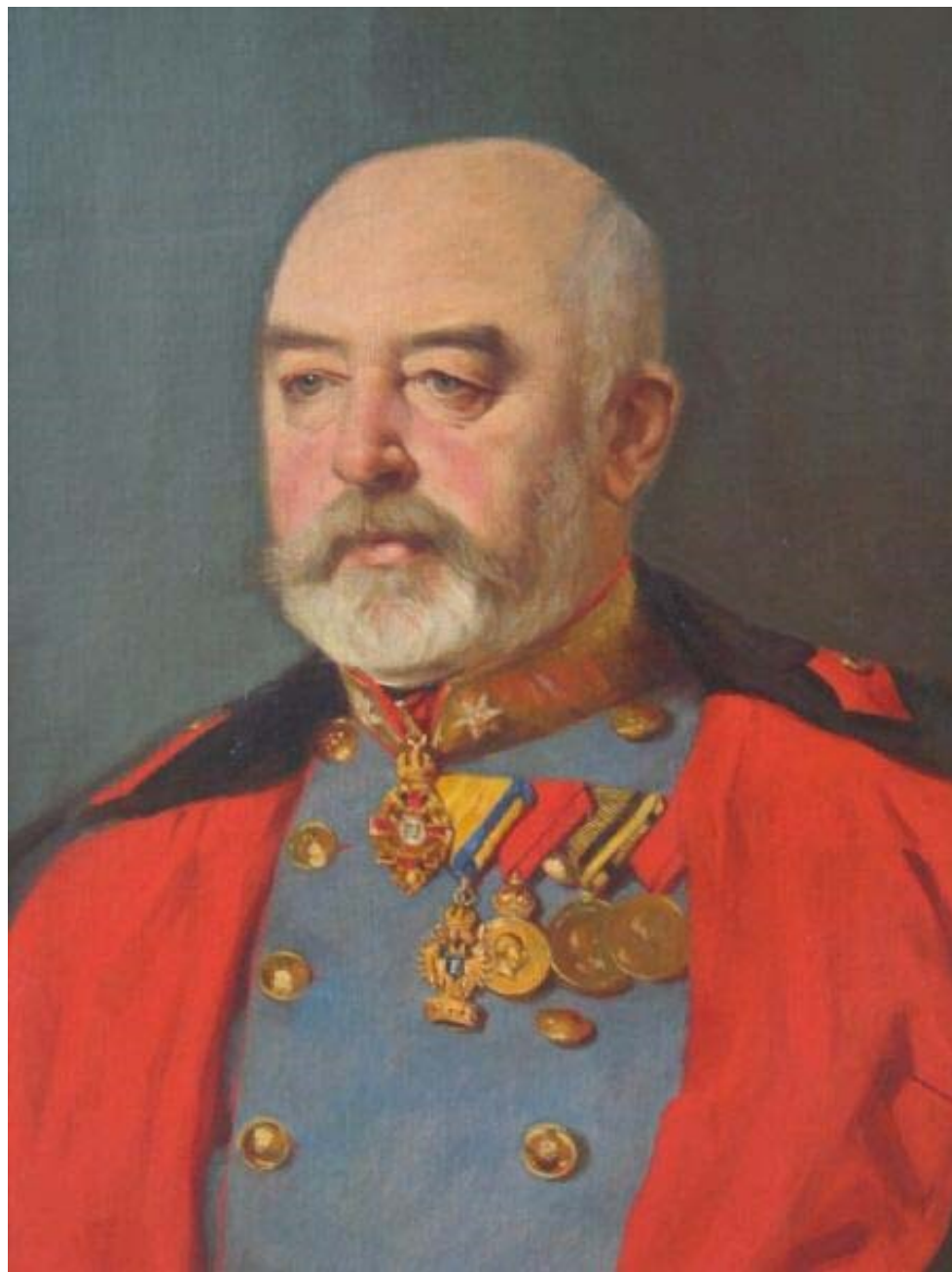
**Hauptman Josef Flicker of Combat Assault Battalion 17 wearing three Military Merit Medals**  
**Silver Military Merit Medal on war ribbon with second award bar and swords**  
**Bronze Military Merit Medal on war ribbon with swords**  
**Bronze Military Merit Medal on Civil Ribbon**







**Military Merit Medal, 1911-1917**  
(Militärverdienstmedaille)



**Reserve Generalmajor Albert Edler von Obermayer**  
**wearing the Bronze Military Merit Medal on Civil Ribbon**





## Grand Military Merit Medal, 1916-1917 (Groß Militärverdienstmedaille)



**Date Issued:** April 1, 1916 - April 18, 1917

**Reason Issued:** To recognize the highest achievement in time of war or to reward outstanding service in piece. This service was greater than that recognized by the Silver Military Merit Medal but not warranting the award of a high order. It was intended for high-ranking officers (Regimental commanders and above) and other notable persons in the society.

**Classes or Types:** This decoration was issued in one class and two types.

- Great Military Merit Medal on war ribbon
- Great Military Merit Medal on war ribbon with swords

**Interesting Facts:**

- This award was only given to officers
- When this decoration was awarded if the recipient had previously been awarded a silver or bronze award, it was no longer to be worn. The exceptions to this were when the silver or bronze medal had been won on a different ribbon either civil or military and also when the lower grade received was the King Karl version of the award.
- This award was issued for less than thirteen months
- The only officers below the rank of General to receive this award was Gottfried Banfield, the Navy Air Ace and Oberstleutnant Hermann Pokorny
- Receipt of the award was as a result of receiving a special commendation from the Emperor
- The medal was sometimes called the “Golden Signum Laudis
- This decoration could be awarded to foreigners. Some of the most distinguished members of the Central Powers forces were awarded this decoration.

**Hallmarks:**

- Vienna Assay Office mark on ring (a capital A in a circle)
- The word SILBER engraved on the edge of the medal
- The silver fineness mark
- The word BRONZE engraved on the edge of the medal





## Grand Military Merit Medal, 1916-1917 (Gross Militärverdienstmedaille)



Type I Obverse



Type I Reverse

Image attributed to Reference Catalogue Orders,  
medals and decorations of the World, A-D,  
Borna Barac

**Design:** A round medal with a raised rim and an attached flexible 20 mm crown surrounded with a laurel wreath at the top.

**Obverse:** A bust of the Emperor Franz Joseph I in old age in high relief facing to the viewers right. In his hair is a wreath of laurel. Around the bust is inscribed: **FRANCISCVS . IOS . I . D . G . IMP . AVST . REX . BOH . ETC . ET . REX . APOST . HVNG \***. Translation: Franz Joseph I with the Grace of God Emperor of Austria King of Bohemia, etc. and Apostolic King of Hungary. Outside of the inscription along the edge of the medal is a line composed of **24** laurel leaves. The crown is attached with a hinge and is usually hollow with a gold bonnet inside. The crown articulates with the medal and is moveable. Around the lower half of the crown is a laurel wreath.

**Reverse:** Within a beaded decoration following the contour of the medal is a wreath of laurel on the viewers left and oak on the right, which is tied at the bottom with a bow. Inside the wreath is the inscription, **SIGNVM LAVDIS** (A token of esteem). The reverse of the crown and wreath are fully detailed.

**Weight:** 26-27 grams

**Size:** The decoration without crown is 37-38 mm in diameter. The crown is 20 mm high. Thus the overall height of the medal is 57-58 mm.

**Type of Material:**

- Gilt bronze
- Gilt silver

**Variations:** There are four known variations of this decoration

- Type I: As described above.







## Great Military Merit Medal, 1916-1917 (Gross Militärverdienstmedaille)



Type III Obverse



Type III Reverse

### Variations (Continued):

- Type II: As described above except the crown and wreath are attached to is the medal and the crown is engraved only on the obverse.
- Type III: As described in Type II except the obverse and reverse of the medal has a raised rim with a step down raised inner line. The inscription has the letter **U** and **J** instead of **I** and **V**. There is also an engravers error in the inscription, which has **JMP** instead of **IMP** for imperial. The raised font of the Signum Laudis text is different from that used in Type I and II decorations.
- Type IV: The same as the Type II decoration but also having a dedicatory inscription on the reverse. The Type IV presentation piece illustrated to the right was presented to Colonel General Hermann Baron Kovess von Kovesshaza and is inscribed inside the beaded line and following the contours of the rim: **IHREM HOCHVEREHRTEN GLORREICHEN FUHRER DIE OFFIZIERE DES 7.ARMEE-KOMMANDOS** (From the Officers of the 7th Army Headquarters with great Admiration for their glorious Leader)





## Grand Military Merit Medal, 1916-1917 (Groß Militärverdienstmedaille)



**Designer:** Anton Scharff

**Manufacturer:** Hauptmunzamt Wien (Imperial Mint, Vienna)

**Number Issued:** 31 medals were issued from April 1, 1916 to 1920. (9 of which were to foreigners, 4 with second award bars and 14 with swords. Only 2 of the 31 medals issued were to persons below the rank of general: Linienschiffsleutnant Baron Gottfried von Banfield and the Lieutenant Colonel of the General Staff Corps Hermann Pokorny. Listed below are the 15 persons who received their awards prior to April 28, 1917.

**Recipients:**

With swords and second award bar. Both recipients received one award prior to April 28, 1917 and one after that date:

- Svetozar Boroević von Bojna, **Feldmarschall**, October 17, 1916, second award bar November 5, 1917
- Franz Graf Conrad von Hotzendorf, **Feldmarschall**, October 17, 1916, second award bar December 6, 1917

**With second award bar:**

- Friedrich Freiherr von Georgi, Generaloberst, November 25, 1916, second award bar March 3, 1917
- Samuel Freiherr von Hazai, Generaloberst, November 25, 1916, second award bar February 19, 1917

**With swords**

- Gottfried Banfield, Linienschiffsleutnant, Austrian Naval Air Ace, August 18, 1916
- Eugen von Habsburg, Archduke, **Feldmarschall**, May 24, 1916
- Karl Freiherr von Pflanzer-Baltin, Generaloberst, September 8, 1916
- Friedrich von Habsburg, Archduke, **Feldmarschall**, October 17, 1916
- Herman Kovess von Kovesshaza, **Feldmarschall**, December 10, 1916
- Eduard Freiherr von Bohm-Ermolli, **Feldmarschall**, January 18, 1917

**Without swords:**

- Artur Freiherr von Bolfras, Generaloberst, August 25, 1916
- Erich von Falkenhayn, General, Germany, October 11, 1916
  - Karl von Habsburg, Emperor, 1916
  - Generaloberst Alexander Ritter von Kroatina, April 8, 1917
  - Eduard Count Paar, Generaloberst, August 25, 1916



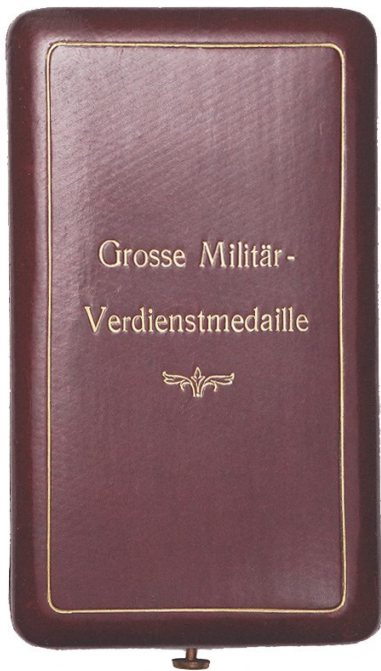




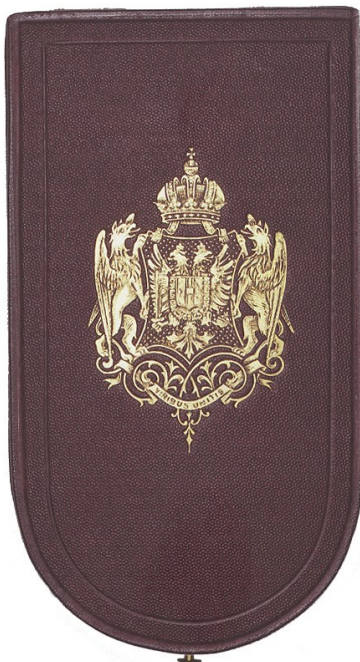
## Grand Military Merit Medal, 1916-1917 (Groß Militärverdienstmedaille)

**Order of Precedence:** Number 34 after the Ecclesiastic Cross 2nd class and before the Silver Military Merit Medal.

**Case:** This medal came in several cases including special presentation cases, some of which are illustrated below.



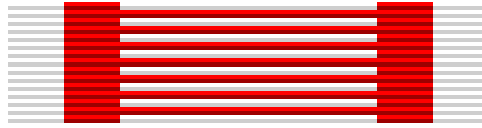
Images courtesy of Dorotheum







## Grand Military Merit Medal, 1916-1917 (Groß Militärverdienstmedaille)



**Ribbon:** A 40 mm Ponceau (Poppy) red and white laddered ribbon for combatants

- A small rectangular ribbon for this decoration sometimes issued with small attachments to indicate specific awards was introduced in October 27, 1917.

**Attachments:**

- Bronze gilt crossed swords were authorized on December 13, 1916 to be worn on this decoration
- Gold trapezoid clasps 9 mm in width and 50 mm in length were authorized for this decoration on February 21, 1917. When the clasp was granted for the decoration with swords, the swords were worn on the top clasp. Medals are known to exist with one bar although two bars were authorized. The bars were manufactured by Josef Zimmler of Vienna

**Miniature:** known to exist









**Grand Military Merit Medal, 1916-1917**  
(Groß Militärverdienstmedaille)



**Oberstleutnant Hermann Pokorny wearing the Grand Military Merit Medal with swords**  
(Pokorny is one of only two persons below the rank of general to be awarded this decoration)







**Grand Military Merit Medal, 1916-1917**  
(Groß Militärverdienstmedaille)



**Emperor Charles von Habsburg wearing the Grand Military Merit Medal**





## Military Merit Medal, 1917-1920 (Militärverdienstmedaille)



**Date Issued:** April 28. 1917 - 1920

**Reason Issued:** To recognize extraordinary service in time of war by officers and military officials of a rank equivalent to an officer and after April 28, 1917 by civilians and civil servants whose service had aided in the war effort.

**Classes or Types:** This decoration was issued in two classes and two types.

- Silver Military Merit Medal on war ribbon
- Silver Military Merit Medal on war ribbon with swords
- Bronze Military Merit Medal on war ribbon
- Bronze Military Merit Medal on war ribbon with swords

**Interesting Facts:**

- This award was only given to officers
- Receipt of the award was as a result of receiving a commendation from the Emperor
- The bronze medal on bravery ribbon could only be awarded once
- All variations of the medals if awarded could be worn at the same time
- There are examples of this medal without the designer Kautsch's name. These are believed to be privately made replacement medals produced in the period between WWI and WWII. Examples' have been attributed to F. Petzl of Vienna.
- After September 30, 1918 certificates were no longer issued with this award

**Hallmarks:**

- The word BRONZE on the edge of the medal
    - The Vienna assay office mark on the edge of the medal (circle with the capital letter A)
- Design:** A round medal with a raised rim and attached crowns at the top with a loop for attaching the medal to the suspension ring at the top of the crowns





**Military Merit Medal, 1917-1920**  
(Militärverdienstmedaille)



**Obverse:** A bust of King Karl in high relief facing to the viewers right in a Field Marshals uniform and wearing the Order of the Golden Fleece and a grand cross ribbon. Below his shoulder is the name of the maker, **KAUTSCH**. Around the bust is inscribed: **CAROLVS. D. G. IMP. AVST. REX. BOH. ETC. ET. REX. APOST. HVNG.** Translation: Karl with the Grace of God Emperor of Austria King of Bohemia, etc. and Apostolic King of Hungary. The attached crowns represent the Austrian imperial crown on the viewers left and the Hungarian king's crown on the right. A wreath composed of laurel on the right and oak on the left which is tied at the bottom with a ribbon is placed behind the crowns. The crowns are struck with the medal.

**Reverse:** Within a wreath of laurel on the viewers left and oak on the right, which is tied at the bottom with a bow, is inscribed, **SIGNVM LAVDIS** (A token of esteem). The reverse of the crown is completely covered by the wreath.

**Weight:**

- Silver medal: 20.4 grams
- Silver gilt medal: 19.9 grams
- Bronze gilt medal: 16.5 to 17 grams

**Size:** The decoration without crown is 31 mm in diameter. The crown is 15 mm high and 18 mm wide. Thus the overall height of the medal is 46 mm.

**Type of Material:**

- Silver
- Silver gilt bronze
- Bronze gilt
- Bronze
- Silver gilt war metal
- War metal







## Military Merit Medal, 1917-1920 (Militärverdienstmedaille)



**Variations:** There are five variations of the silver medal and four variations of the bronze medal

- Silver Medal Type I: as described with a dull silver finish
- Silver Medal Type II: as described with a bright silver finish
- Silver Medal Type III: as described in silver gilt war metal
- Silver Medal Type IV: as described in war metal
- Silver Type V: are examples that were privately engraved on the back
- Bronze Type I: as described with a frosted gilt finish
- Bronze Type II: as described above with a bright gilt finish
- Bronze Medal Type III: as described above in bronze
- Bronze Type IV: as described above in war metal

**Designer:** Heinrich Kautsch

**Manufacturer:**

- Hauptmunzamt, Wien (Imperial Mint in Vienna)
- Hauptmunzamt, Kremnitz
- Anton Bachruch
- Vincenz Mayer's Sohne

**Number Issued:** Unknown

**Order of Precedence:**

- Military Merit Medal, in silver, number 35, coming after the Great Military Medal and before the Bronze Military Merit Medal
- Military Merit Medal, in bronze, number 36, coming after the Military Merit Medal, silver and before the Gold Bravery Medal

**Case:** This medal came in a wide variety of cases (some of which are illustrated below and on the next page).

- Type I: A red cloth covered case with a silver imperial arms in the center and a silver decorative border. The inside of the lid is lined with white silk on which is in some cases is the makers logo in gold. The inside bottom of the case is black plush and fitted.
- Type II: A red cloth covered case with gold imperial arms in the center. The inside of the lid is lined with white silk on which is in some cases is the makers logo in gold. The inside bottom of the case is black plush and fitted.

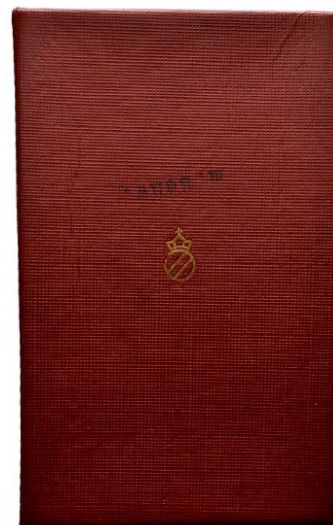
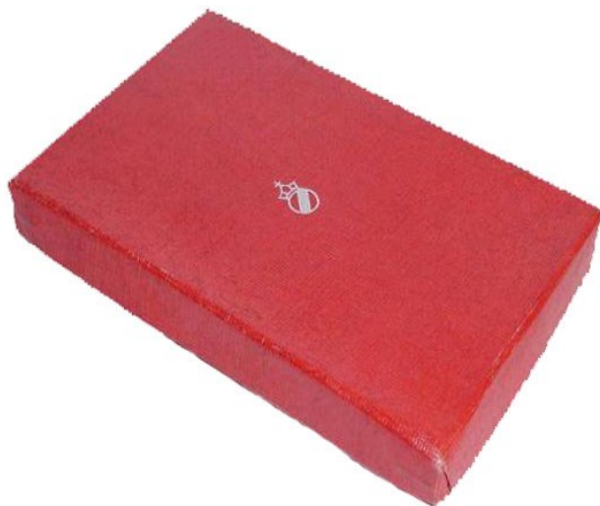




## Military Merit Medal, 1917-1920 (Militärverdienstmedaille)

### Case (continued):

- Type III: A red or maroon cardboard case with an imperial logo in the center in silver or bronze to match the medal inside. The inner lid of the case is white cardboard; the inside of the bottom of the case is also white cardboard and is fitted. Maker's logos are in some cases on the exterior bottom of the case



Type IV: Presentation cases: A maroon leather case with gold inscription and gold border on the lid. The inner lid is white silk and in some cases has the maker's logo. The inside of the bottom of the case is black plush and is fitted.



Image courtesy of Dorotheum





The diagram illustrates the decomposition of a 2D grid into a 1D grid and a 2D grid. On the left, a 2D grid is shown with a red vertical bar on the left and a red vertical bar on the right. The grid is divided into two horizontal sections. The top section is labeled '1D' and the bottom section is labeled '2D'. The 1D section is further divided into two horizontal sections, each labeled '1D'. The 2D section is further divided into two horizontal sections, each labeled '2D'. On the right, a 2D grid is shown with a red vertical bar on the left and a red vertical bar on the right. The grid is divided into two horizontal sections. The top section is labeled '1D' and the bottom section is labeled '2D'. The 1D section is further divided into two horizontal sections, each labeled '1D'. The 2D section is further divided into two horizontal sections, each labeled '2D'.

- A small rectangular ribbon for this decoration sometimes issued with small attachments to indicate specific awards was introduced in October 27, 1917.



- Bronze gilt crossed swords were authorized to be worn on both the bronze and silver decoration







## Military Merit Medal, 1917-1920 (Militärverdienstmedaille)

### Attachments (Continued):

- Trapezoid stainless steel clasps 8 mm in width were authorized to designate repeat awards of the silver medals, when the clasp was granted for the medal with swords the swords were worn on the top clasp. Medals are known to exist with 3 bars. The bars were manufactured by Josef Zimmler of Vienna and are engraved on the back with his logo.
- Second award a bar 50 mm in length (top edge) and 8 mm wide
- Third award: two bars The first bar is 50 mm in length at the top edge and the second bar is 40 mm in length (top edge) with both bars being 8 mm wide (Bars are spaced 20 mm apart)
- Fourth award: three bars The first bar is 50 mm in length at the top edge, the second bar is 40 mm in length (top edge) and the third bar is 30 mm in length with all bars being 8 mm wide (Bars are spaced 20 mm apart)
- Occasionally the bars are engraved although this was unofficial.

### Miniatures on

#### Miniature:

Miniatures are known to exist



Image courtesy of Dorotheum

Chain with the silver and bronze Military Merit Medal with swords





**Military Merit Medal, 1917-1920**  
(Militärverdienstmedaille)



**A Military Chaplain wearing the Military Merit Medal with swords**

**An eight award bar with the Military Merit Medal in the fourth position from the left**



Image courtesy of Dorotheum





## Grand Military Merit Medal, 1917-1920 (Groß Militärverdienstmedaille)



**Date Issued:** April 28, 1917 - 1920

**Reason Issued:** To recognize the highest achievement in time of war or to reward outstanding service in piece. This service was greater than that recognized by the Silver Military Merit Medal but not warranting the award of a high order. It was intended for high-ranking officers (Regimental Commanders and above) and other notable persons in the society.

**Classes or Types:** This decoration was issued in one class and two types.

- Great Military Merit Medal on war ribbon
- Great Military Merit Medal on war ribbon with swords

**Interesting Facts:**

- This award was only given to officers
- It was not issued until December 6, 1917
- On December 6, 1917 the statutes were changed to allow officers to wear all grades of these decorations at one time.
- The only officer of the lower ranks to receive this award was Oberstleutnant Hermann Pokorny.
- Receipt of the award was as a result of receiving a special commendation from the Emperor

**Hallmarks:**

- Vienna Assay Office mark (a capital A in a circle)
- Silver assay mark
- Stamped SILBER on edge of decoration
- Stamped BRONZE on edge of decoration



**Design:** A round medal with a raised rim and an attached crowns and laurel wreath at the top.







## Grand Military Merit Medal, 1917-1920 (Groß Militärverdienstmedaille)



Image courtesy of Dorotheum

**Obverse:** Inside a fine line of laurel leaves is a bust of King Karl in high relief facing to the viewers right in a Field Marshals uniform and wearing the Order of the Golden Fleece. Below his shoulder is the name of the maker, **KAUTSCH**. Around the bust is inscribed: **CAROLVS. D. G. IMP. AVST. REX. BOH. ETC. ET. REX. APOST. HVNG.** Translation: Karl with the Grace of God Emperor of Austria King of Bohemia, etc. and Apostolic King of Hungary. The attached crowns represent the Austrian imperial crown on the viewers left and the Hungarian royal crown on the right. The crowns are placed upon a wreath composed of laurel on the viewers left and oak on the right which is tied at the bottom with a ribbon. The crown is struck as a part of the medal.

**Reverse:** Inside a beaded line which follows the contour of the medal and within a wreath of laurel on the viewers left and oak on the right, which is tied at the bottom with a bow, is inscribed, **SIGNVM LAVDIS** (A token of esteem). The reverse of the wreath is fully detailed.

**Weight:**

- Silver: Unknown
- Bronze gilt: 26 grams
- Silver gilt: 30-32 grams
- Bronze: Unknown

**Size:** The decoration without crown is 37-38 mm in diameter. The crown is 30 mm in width and 18 mm high including the suspension eye. Thus the overall height of the medal is 55-56 mm.

**Type of Material:**

- Silver
- Gilt silver with a matt gold finish
- Gilt bronze with a matt gold finish
- Bronze





## Grand Military Merit Medal, 1917-1920 (Groß Militärverdienstmedaille)



**Variations:** There are four variations of this decoration

- Type I (1917): As described above in silver.
- Type II (1917): As described above in matt finished gilt silver
- Type III (1918): As described above in matt finished gilt bronze
- Type IV (1918): As described above except the crown and wreath is engraved only on the obverse.
- Type V (1918): As Type IV except the medal is in bronze and the crown and wreath are engraved only on the obverse.
- Type VI: As described in Type I except the bust of the emperor is larger.

**Designer:** Heinrich Kautsch

**Manufacturer:** Hauptmunzamt Wien (Imperial Mint, Vienna)



Type I-V Obverse

Image courtesy of Dorotheum



Type VI obverse

Image courtesy of Dorotheum



Type I-V Reverse



Type IV-VI Reverse





## Grand Military Merit Medal, 1917-1920 (Groß Militärverdienstmedaille)



**Number Issued:** 31 medals were issued from April 1, 1916 to 1920. (9 of which were to foreigners, 4 with second award bars and 14 with swords. Only 2 of the 31 medals issued were to persons below the rank of general: Linienschiffsleutnant Baron Gottfried von Banfield and the Lieutenant Colonel of the General Staff Corps Hermann Pokorny. Listed below are the 18 persons who received their award after April 28, 1917. This includes the two persons who received two awards with swords, one of which was issued prior to April 28, 1917.

### Recipients:

**With swords and second award bar.** Both recipients received one award prior to April 28, 1917 and one after that date:

- Svetozar Boroević von Bojna, **Feldmarschall**, October 17, 1916, second award bar November 5, 1917
- Franz Graf Conrad von Hotzendorf, **Feldmarschall**, October 17, 1916, second award bar December 6, 1917

### With swords:

- Arthur Freiherr Arz von Straussenburg, General der Infanterie, October 28, 1917
- Joseph von Habsburg, Archduke, Generaloberst, August 5, 1917
- Alfred Krauss, General der Infanterie, November 5, 1917
- Alois Fürst Schonburg-Hartenstein, General der Kavallerie, November 14, 1917
- Franz Freiherr Rohr von Denta, Feldmarschall, March 26, 1918
- Hermann Pokorny, Oberstleutnant in Generalstab, October 24, 1918

### Without swords:

- Albrecht Duke of Württemberg, Generalfeldmarschall, August 19, 1917
- Felix Graf von Bothmer, General der Infanterie, July 28, 1917
- Enver Pasha, Turkish General, August 14, 1917
- Paul von Beneckendorff und von Hindenburg, German Generalfeldmarschall, August 5, 1917
- Alexander von Linsingen, German Generaloberst, December 7, 1917
- Erich Ludendorff, German General der Infanterie, March 26, 1918
- Rupprecht Crown Prince of Bavaria, August 19, 1917
- Friedrich Wilhelm, General der Infanterie, Crown Prince of the German Empire, August 19, 1917
- Remus von Woyrsch, German Generaloberst, December 13, 1917
- Nikola Todorow Schekow, General der Infanterie, 1918

**Order of Precedence:** Number 34 after the Ecclesiastic Cross 2nd class and before the Silver Military Merit Medal.

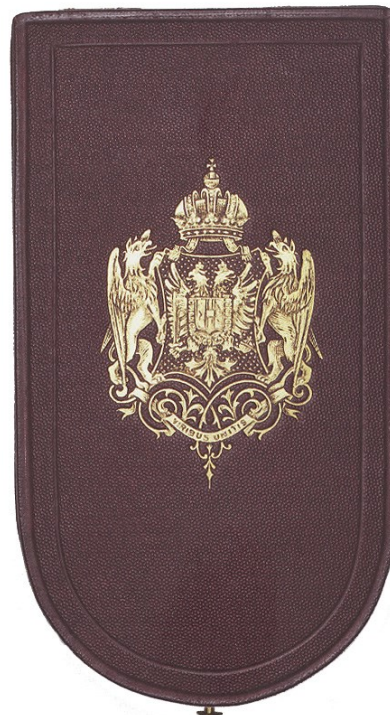
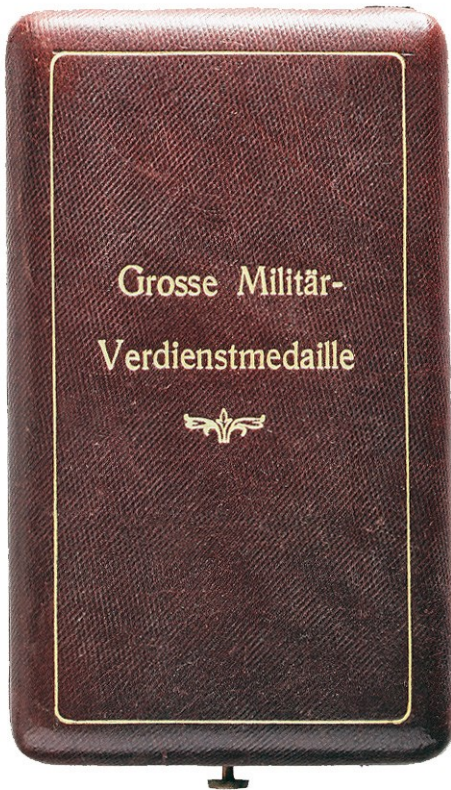






## Grand Military Merit Medal, 1917-1920 (Groß Militärverdienstmedaille)

**Case:** This medal came in several cases including special presentation cases, some of which are illustrated below.

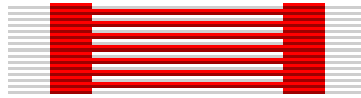


Images courtesy of Dorotheum





## Grand Military Merit Medal, 1917-1920 (Groß Militärverdienstmedaille)



**Ribbon:** A 40 mm Red and White laddered ribbon

- A small rectangular ribbon for this decoration sometimes issued with small attachments to indicate specific awards was introduced in October 27, 1917.



### Attachments:

- Bronze gilt crossed swords were authorized to be worn on this decoration
- Gold trapezoid clasps 9 mm in width were authorized to designate repeat awards of the Great Signum Laudis medals, when the clasp was granted for the medal with swords the swords were worn on the top clasp. Medals are known to exist with 3 bars. The bars were manufactured by Josef Zimmler of Vienna and are engraved on the back with his logo.
- Second award: a bar 50 mm in length (top edge) and 9 mm wide
- Third award: two bars the first bar is 50 mm in length at the top edge and the second bar is 40 mm in length (top edge) with the top bar being 9 mm and the second bar being 8 mm wide (Bars are spaced 20 mm apart)
- Fourth award: three bars the first bar is 50 mm in length at the top edge, the second bar is 40 mm in length (top edge) and the third bar is 30 mm in length with the first bar being 9 mm wide and the other two being 8 mm wide (Bars are spaced 20 mm apart).



- Occasionally the bars are engraved although this was unofficial.







**Grand Military Merit Medal, 1917-1920**  
(Groß Militärverdienstmedaille)

**Miniature:** known to exist



**Field Marshall Joseph von Habsburg wearing the Grand Military Merit Medal with Swords**







## Civil Merit Medal (Zivil-Verdienstmedaille)



**Date Issued:** December 2, 1848 to February 19, 1850

**Reason Issued:** To reward outstanding civil service and or special civil contributions to the empire

**Classes or Types:** This decoration was issued in two classes with three grades within each class:

- Golden Civil Merit Medal, First class
- Golden Civil Merit Medal, Second class
- Golden Civil Merit Medal, Third class
- Silver Civil Merit Medal, First class
- Silver Civil Merit Medal, Second class
- Silver Civil Merit Medal, Third class

**Interesting Facts:**

- Bronze examples of this medal exist. There is no known provision for such awards in the statutes.
- The gold and silver medal III class were not officially named
- This was the last in the series of so called honor medals
- The last of this type medal was awarded on February 19, 1850

**Hallmarks:** None known

**Design:** A round medal with a tailed ornamental eye.

**Obverse:** A bust of the young Emperor Franz Joseph I facing left with a laurel wreath in his hair. The medals are inscribed: **FRANCISCVS IOSEPHVS I. D. G. AVSTIRIAE IMPERATOR**. Translation: Franz Joseph I with the grace of God Austrian Emperor. Below the bust of the emperor on the gold and silver medals I and II class is the designer's name, **F. Gaul** or **C. Radnitzky**. Below the bust on the III class medals is the name of the medalist **K. Lange**

**Reverse:** An oak leaf wreath which is open at the top and tied at the bottom with a bow. Above the wreath is inscribed: **MERITIS** (Merit). Within the wreath is a space for engraving the recipient's name.

**Weight:**

- Golden Civil Merit Medal, First class: 24 Ducats (83 grams)
- Golden Civil Merit Medal, Second class: 12 Ducats (41.5 grams)
  - Golden Civil Merit Medal, Third class: 8 Ducats (27.5 grams)
- Silver Civil Merit Medal, First class: 41 grams
- Silver Civil Merit Medal, Second class: 38 grams
- Silver Civil Merit Medal, Third class: 25 grams





## Civil Merit Medal (Zivil-Verdienstmedaille)



### Size:

- Golden Civil Merit Medal, First class: 48-50 mm
- Golden Civil Merit Medal, Second class: 39 mm
- Golden Civil Merit Medal, Third class: 33 mm
- Silver Civil Merit Medal, First class: 48-50 mm
- Silver Civil Merit Medal, Second class: 39 mm
- Silver Civil Merit Medal, Third class: 33 mm

**Type of Material:** Gold and Silver

**Variations:** None known

### Designer:

- Gold and silver medal I and II class: Franz. Gaul
- Gold and silver medal I and II class: Carl. Radnitzky
- Gold and silver medal III class: Konrad Lange

**Manufacturer:** Hauptmunzamt Wien (Imperial Mint, Vienna)

### Number Issued:

- Gold Civil Merit Medal, first class (with chain) = 48
- Gold Civil Merit Medal, first class = 181
- Silver Civil Merit Medal, first class = 22
- Gold Civil Merit Medal, second class = 239
- Silver Civil Merit Medal, second class = 51
- Gold Civil Merit Medal, third class = 233
- Silver Civil Merit Medal, third class = Unknown

**Order of Precedent:** Not included in the 1918 Order of Precedent

**Case:** Unknown

### Ribbon:

- The first class gold medal was issued on a gold chain
  - All medals could be worn on a 38 to 40 mm carmen-red ribbon worn as a straight ribbon

**Attachments:** None

**Miniature:** known to exist

- Gold Medal, first class, 15 mm in diameter and 3.7 grams in weight





## Merit Cross (Verdienstkreuz)

Image courtesy of Dorotheum



**Date Issued:** Established in 1849 and issued from February 16, 1850 to 1922

**Reason Issued:** To reward proven devotion to the Emperor and the fatherland, many years of valuable service, or other significant services in support of the public welfare.

**Classes or Types:** This decoration was issued in two classes with six grades in each class:

- Gold Merit Cross with crown on the war ribbon with swords (After December 13, 1916)
- Gold Merit Cross with crown on the war ribbon (After September 20, 1914)
- Gold Merit Cross with crown on the civil ribbon
- Gold Merit Cross on the war ribbon with swords (After December 13, 1916)
- Gold Merit Cross on the war ribbon (After September 20, 1914)
- Gold Merit Cross on the civil ribbon
- Silver Merit Cross with crown on the war ribbon with swords (After December 13, 1916)
- Silver Merit Cross with crown on the war ribbon (After September 20, 1914)
- Silver Merit Cross with crown on the civil ribbon
- Silver Merit Cross on the war ribbon with swords (After December 13, 1916)
- Silver Merit Cross on the war ribbon (After September 20, 1914)
- Silver Merit Cross on the civil ribbon

### Interesting Facts:

- The crosses were originally awarded personally by the emperor
- The cross design was significantly influenced by the design of the Order of Franz Joseph
- The original golden crosses are gold and the center medallion of the cross can be opened.
- Recipients of the cross were entitled to add "Holder of the Service Cross" to their name.
- Members of the Bosnian and-Herzegovinian Gendarmerie received a lifetime financial award if they were decorated with the silver or gold merit cross
- More than one cross could be awarded but only the highest grade and class could be worn and the lower class or grade of the award had to be returned until 1918 . After 1918 two crosses could be worn at the same time.
- This cross was commonly awarded to chaplains, military officials and sergeants in support or technical roles
- The Merit Cross with crown took the place of the large gold Civil Merit Medal, the Gold Merit Cross replaced the medium and small gold Civil Merit Medal, the Silver Merit Cross with crown replaced the large silver Civil Merit Medal, the silver merit cross replaced the small silver Civil Merit Medal.



Image courtesy of Dorotheum







## Merit Cross (Verdienstkreuz)



### Interesting Facts continued:

- The crosses were originally returned after the death of the recipient
- The crosses including crosses with swords could be awarded to women, although this was a rare occurrence

**Hallmarks:** Crosses only had maker's marks until 1872. After that date they are often fully hallmarked with assay office marks and fineness marks. The following hallmarks have been noted on merit crosses: They are usually found on the suspension ring, the reverse of the banderoles, the back of the crown orb or the suspension ball through which passes the suspension ring on the crosses without crown.

- The Mark of A. Bachruch of Budapest
- The mark of Karl Bohm
- The mark of Franz Braun
- The mark of the Hauptmunzamt Wien (Imperial Mint, Vienna)
- The mark of Alexander Kittner
- The mark of Alexander E. Kochhert
- The mark of Wilhelm Kunz
- The mark of Rudolf Marshall
- The mark of Vinc Mayers and Sons
- The mark of Rothe & Neffe
- The mark of Rozet & Fischmeister
- The mark of Georg Adam Scheid
- The Mark of the Heinrich Ulbrecht's Witwe Uniform Company
- The bronze gilt asterisk
- The Wien Mark
- The 1872-1920 small article 750 fine gold hallmark
- The 900 fine silver mark
- The 1868-1872 fine silver mark
- 1872-1922 800 fine silver mark
  - The 750 fine silver mark
  - The 1868-1872 750 fine gold hallmark
  - The 1872-1922 750 fine gold hallmark





## Merit Cross (Verdienstkreuz)



Images courtesy of Dorotheum

**Design:** A Rupert type clawed cross with an attached imperial crown for the highest gold and silver class.  
**Obverse**

- **Gold Merit Cross with crown:** A Rupert type cross 36 mm in diameter with 5 mm wide flared enameled arms bordered in gold. In the center of the cross is a 17 mm, vaulted and applied, round medallion. The medallion has a raised frosted gold rim inside of which is a white enameled circle. On this white enameled ring is inscribed **VIRIBUS UNITIS** (with united strength, the motto of Franz Joseph's reign) the letters are in gold and are separated by gilt ovals. At the top of the enameled circle is a pair of gold clasped hands (this represents the loyalty of the people). Inside this first enameled ring is a second raised frosted gilt border. This border is 7 mm in diameter. Inside the inner ring are the initials **FJ** (Franz Joseph). The monogram is made of gilt metal and is applied to the center medallion. The upper arm of the cross is attached to a 20 mm crown which is affixed to the cross by two banderoles of metal, which extend from the lower edge of the crown to the upper edge of the cross. The crown is the imperial crown. The crown has, in some cases, a red enameled bonnet within it. The crown is very detailed. Through the orb at the top of the crown passes a ring for suspending the cross from a ribbon.
- **Silver Merit Cross with crown:** A Rupert type cross 36 mm in diameter with 5 mm red enameled flared arms bordered in silver. In the center of the cross is a 17 mm, round medallion. The medallion has a raised rim. Inside the outer rim of the center medallion is inscribed **VIRIBUS UNITIS** (with united strength, the motto of Franz Joseph's reign) the letters are in silver and are separated by ovals. At the top of the circle is a pair of clasped hands (this represents the loyalty of the people). Inside this first ring is a second raised border. The border is 14 mm in diameter. Inside this inner ring are the initials **FJ** (Franz Joseph). The upper arm of the cross has two banderoles of metal, which extend from the lower edge of the crown to the upper edge of the cross. The crown is the imperial crown. The crown has, in some cases, a red enameled bonnet within it. The crown is very detailed. Through the orb at the top of the crown passes a ring for suspending the cross from a ribbon.





## Merit Cross (Verdienstkreuz)



Image courtesy of Dorotheum

### Obverse Continued:

- **Gold Merit Cross:** A Rupert type cross 30 mm in diameter with 4 mm wide flared enameled arms bordered in gold. In the center of the cross is a 14 mm, vaulted and applied, round medallion. The medallion has a raised frosted gold rim inside of which is a white enameled circle. On this white enameled circle is inscribed **VIRIBUS UNITIS** (with united strength, the motto of Franz Joseph's reign) the letters are in gold and are separated by gilt ovals. At the top of the enameled circle is a pair of gold clasped hands (this represents the loyalty of the people). Inside this first enameled ring is a second raised frosted gilt border. The inner ring is 6 mm in diameter. Inside this inner ring are the initials **FJ** (Franz Joseph). The monogram is made of gilt metal and is applied to the center medallion. The upper arm of the cross has a ball shaped eye through which passes a ring for suspending the cross from a ribbon.
- **Silver Merit Cross:** A Rupert type cross 30 mm in diameter with 4 mm red enameled flared arms bordered in silver. In the center of the cross is a 14 mm, round medallion. The medallion has a raised rim. Inside this rim is inscribed **VIRIBUS UNITIS** (with united strength, the motto of Franz Joseph's reign) the letters are in silver and are separated by ovals. At the top of the circle is a pair of clasped hands (this represents the loyalty of the people). Inside this first ring is a second raised border. The inner border is 12 mm in diameter. Inside this inner border are the initials **FJ** (Franz Joseph). The upper arm of the cross has a ball shaped eye through which passes a ring for suspending the cross from a ribbon.







## Merit Cross (Verdienstkreuz)



Images courtesy of Dorotheum

### Reverse:

- **Gold Merit Cross with crown:** The reverse of the cross is red enameled with a gilt border. The 10 mm center medallion is gilt and has a granulated border around it. It has a raised gilt rim inside of which is a white enameled center medallion. On the enamel is the date **1849** in gilt metal. The date is applied to the cross. The reverse of the banderoles and the crown are similar to the obverse side and are very detailed. The crown is the imperial crown. It has, in some cases, a red enameled bonnet within it. The crown is very detailed. Through the orb at the top of the crown passes a ring for suspending the cross from a ribbon.
- **Silver Merit Cross with crown:** The reverse of the cross is red enameled with a silver border. The center medallion is silver and has a granulated border around it. The center of the medallion is 12 mm in diameter. It has a raised rim inside of which is the date **1849**. The reverse of the banderoles and the crown are similar to the obverse side and are very detailed. The crown is the imperial crown. In some cases it has a red enameled bonnet within it. The crown is very detailed. Through the orb at the top of the crown passes a ring for suspending the cross from a ribbon.
- **Gold Merit Cross:** The reverse of the cross is red enameled with a gilt border. The center medallion is gilt and has a granulated border around it. The center of the medallion is 8 mm in diameter. It has a raised gilt rim inside of which is a white enameled center medallion. On the enamel is the date **1849** in gilt metal. The date is applied to the cross. The upper arm of the cross has a ball shaped eye through which passes a ring for suspending the cross from a ribbon.
- **Silver Merit Cross:** The reverse of the cross is red enameled with a silver border. The center medallion is silver and has a granulated border around it. The center of the medallion is 10 mm in diameter. It has a raised rim inside of which is the date **1849**. The upper arm of the cross has a ball shaped eye through which passes a ring for suspending the cross from a ribbon.





## Merit Cross (Verdienstkreuz)



### Weight:

- Golden Merit Cross with crown: 11.3 -14.6 grams (4 Ducats)
- Golden Merit Cross: 7.6 -11.5 grams
- Silver Merit Cross with crown: 12.5 -16 grams
- Silver Merit Cross: 7.4 - 9 grams

### Size:

- Golden Merit Cross with crown: 35 mm in width, 55 mm high, including the crown and 7 mm thick at the center of the cross.
- Golden Merit Cross, 1849-1914: 30-33 mm in diameter and 7 mm thick at the center of the cross.
- Golden Merit Cross, 1914-1918: 36 mm in diameter
- Silver Merit Cross with crown: 36 mm in width, 56 mm high, including the crown and 5 mm thick at the center of the cross.
- Silver Merit Cross, 1849-1914: 28-33 mm in diameter and 5 mm thick at the center of the cross.
- Silver Merit Cross, 1914-1918: 33-36 mm in diameter

### Type of Material:

- Gold crosses were made of gold from 1850 to 1916; of silver and bronze gilt from 1916 to 1922
- Silver crosses were made of silver from 1850-1918; and from 1918 of silver gilt or silver plated base metal





## Merit Cross (Verdienstkreuz)



### Variations:

#### Gold Cross with crown:

- Type I Gold Cross with crown, 1849-1875 **obverse**: A Rupert type cross with wide flared enameled arms bordered in gold. In the center of the cross is an applied, round medallion. The medallion has a raised frosted gold rim inside of which is a white enameled circle. On this white enameled ring is inscribed **VIRIBUS UNITIS** (with united strength, the motto of Franz Joseph's reign) the letters are in gold and are separated by gilt ovals. At the top of the enameled circle is a pair of gold clasped hands (this represents the loyalty of the people). Inside this first enameled ring is a second raised frosted gilt border. Inside this inner ring are the initials **FJ** (Franz Joseph). The monogram is made of gilt metal and is applied to the center medallion. The upper arm of the cross is attached to a crown which is affixed to the cross by two banderoles of metal, which extend from the lower edge of the crown to the upper edge of the cross. The crown is the imperial crown but is smaller in this type cross than in later versions. The crown is very detailed. Through the orb at the top of the crown passes a ring for suspending the cross from a ribbon. These crosses were made by F. Braun, Vinc. Mayer's Sohne, and Alexander. Kittner
- Type I Gold Cross with crown, 1849-1875 **reverse**: The reverse of the cross is red enameled with a gilt border. The center medallion is gilt and has a granulated border around it. It has a raised gilt rim inside of which is a white enameled center medallion. On the enamel is the date **1849** in gilt metal. The date is applied to the cross. The reverse of the banderoles and the crown are similar to the obverse side and are very detailed.







## Merit Cross (Verdienstkreuz)



Image courtesy of Dorotheum

### Variations continued:

#### Gold Cross with crown:

- Type II Gold Cross with crown, 1875-1914 **obverse**: The same as the Type I cross except they are slightly flatter and the enamel is darker than in the earlier crosses. Also the crown is larger
- Type II Gold Cross with crown, 1875-1914 **reverse**: The same as the Type I cross except they are slightly flatter and the enamel is darker than in the earlier crosses. Also the crown is larger



Image courtesy of Dorotheum

- Type III Gold Cross with crown, 1875-1914 **obverse**: The same as the Type II cross except the raised circles of the center medallion are much finer and less raised and the crown has a red enamel inner liner
- Type III Gold Cross with crown, 1875-1914 **reverse**: The same as the Type II cross except the outer ring of the center medallion is filled with white enamel on which are gold laurel leaves and the date in gold is an integral part of the inner medallion and not applied. These crosses were made by Rothe & Neffe





## Merit Cross (Verdienstkreuz)



### Variations continued:

#### Gold Cross with crown:

- Type IV Gold Cross with crown, 1875-1918 **obverse**: The same as the Type III cross
- Type IV Gold Cross with crown, 1875-1918 **reverse**: The same as the Type III cross except the outer ring of the center medallion has gold laurel leaves on a gold metal background. These crosses were made by Rothe & Neffe



Images courtesy of Dorotheum

- Type V Gold Cross with crown, 1875-1914 **obverse**: The same as the Type II cross except the crown has a red enamel liner
- Type V Gold Cross with crown, 1875-1914 **reverse**: The same as the Type II cross except the crown has a red enamel liner





## Merit Cross (Verdienstkreuz)



### Variations continued:

#### Gold Cross with crown:

- Type VI Gold Cross with crown, 1914-1918 **obverse**: The same as the Type V cross except the crown has points on the top sides. This cross was made by Wilhelm Kunz
- Type VI Gold Cross with crown, 1914-1918 **reverse**: The same as the Type V cross except the crown has points on the top sides



Image courtesy of Dorotheum

- Type VII Gold Cross with crown, 1914-1918 **obverse**: The same as Type V
- Type VII Gold Cross with crown, 1914-1918 **Reverse**: The same as Type V except that the reverse center medallion has a white enameled ring just inside its margin. In addition the center medallion is composed of a single piece. There is no raised rim and the date 1849 is not applied but rather a part of the center medallion. These crosses were by Heinrich Jauner and Karl Schwerdtner.
- Type VIII Gold Cross with Crown, 1918. The same as the Types IV, VI, VII except silver gilt rather than gold







## Merit Cross (Verdienstkreuz)



Images courtesy of Dorotheum

### Variations continued:

#### Gold Cross with crown:

- Type IX Gold Cross with crown **obverse**: The same as the Type II cross.
- Type IX Gold Cross with crown, **reverse**: The same as the Type VII cross except the crown does not have the red enameled inner liner.
- Type X Gold Cross with crown, **reverse**: the same as Type III except the reverse center medallion is surrounded by a metal ring on which is engraved a dedication.

Image courtesy of Dorotheum





## Merit Cross (Verdienstkreuz)



Images courtesy of Dorotheum

### Variations continued:

#### Gold Cross:

- Type I Gold Cross, 1849-1918 **obverse**: A 30 mm in diameter Rupert type cross with wide flared enameled arms bordered in gold. In the center of the cross is an applied, round medallion. The medallion has a raised frosted gold rim inside of which is a white enameled circle. On this white enameled ring is inscribed **VIRIBUS UNITIS** (with united strength, the motto of Franz Joseph's reign) the letters are in gold and are separated by gilt ovals. At the top of the enameled circle is a pair of gold clasped hands (this represents the loyalty of the people). Inside this first enameled ring is a second raised frosted gilt border. Inside this inner border are the initials **FJ** (Franz Joseph). The monogram is made of gilt metal and is applied to the center medallion. The upper arm of the cross has a ball shaped eye through which passes a ring for suspending the cross from a ribbon.
- Type I Gold Cross, 1849-1918 **reverse**: The reverse of the 30 mm in diameter cross is red enameled with a gilt border. The center medallion is gilt and has a granulated border around it. It has a raised gilt rim inside of which is a white enameled round medallion. On the enamel is the date **1849** in gilt metal. The date is applied to the cross. The upper arm of the cross has a ball shaped eye through which passes a ring for suspending the cross from a ribbon.
- Type II Gold Cross, 1914-1918 **obverse**: The same as the Type I cross except it is 36 mm in diameter
- Type II Gold Cross, 1914-1918 **reverse**: The same as the Type I cross except it is 36 mm in diameter
- Type III Gold Cross, 1914-1918 **obverse**: The same as the Type II cross
- Type III Gold Cross, 1914-1918 **reverse**: The same as the Type II cross except the reverse center medallion is a single piece which has a white enameled ring just inside its margin. There is no raised rim on the reverse center medallion and the date 1849 is not applied but rather an integral part of the center medallion. These crosses are believed to have been made by Heinrich Ulbrichts Witwe.
- Type IV Gold Cross, 1914-1918: The same as the Type III cross except it is 30 mm in diameter





## Merit Cross (Verdienstkreuz)



### Variations continued:

#### Gold Cross:

- Type V Gold Cross, **obverse**, 1918. The same as the Type I, except that the obverse center medallion is integral to the cross and elements of the center medallion are part of its composition and not attached or raised.
- Type V Gold Cross, **reverse**, 1918. The same as the Type I, except that the inner portion of the reverse center medallion is integral to the cross and its elements are not attached or raised.
- Type VI Gold Cross, **obverse**, 1918. The same as the Type II except that the obverse center medallion is integral to the cross and elements of the center medallion are part of its composition and not attached or raised.
- Type VI Gold Cross, **reverse**, 1918. The same as the Type II, except that the inner portion of the reverse center medallion is integral to the cross and its elements are not attached or raised.
- Type VII Gold Cross, **reverse**: the same as Type I except the reverse center medallion is surrounded by a metal ring on which is engraved a dedication.







**Merit Cross**  
(Verdienstkreuz)



**Type VIII Gold Merit Cross**

**Variations continued:**

**Gold Cross:**

- Type VIII Gold Cross, **obverse**: The same as the Type V obverse except the center medallion is inset.
- Type VIII Gold Cross, **reverse**: The same as the Type III reverse except that the center medallion is inset and ring surrounding the center medallion with the date is white enamel and is decorated with laurel leaves.
- Type IX Gold Cross, **obverse**: The same as the Type I obverse.
- Type IX Gold Cross, **reverse**: The same as Type III Reverse.





## Merit Cross (Verdienstkreuz)



Type X Gold Merit Cross

### Variations continued:

#### Gold Cross:

- Type X Gold Cross, **obverse**: The same as the Type I obverse.
- Type X Gold Cross, **reverse**: The same as Type III reverse.
- Type XI Gold Merit Cross, **obverse**: The same as Type VIII.
- Type XI Gold Merit Cross, **reverse**: The same as the Type I reverse except the outer ring of the center medallion has gold laurel leaves on a gold metal background. These crosses were made by Rothe & Neffe.





## Merit Cross (Verdienstkreuz)



Image courtesy of Dorotheum

### Variations continued:

#### Silver Cross with crown:

- Type I Silver Cross with Crown 1849-1875 **obverse**: A Rupert type cross with wide flared enameled arms bordered in silver. In the center of the cross is an applied, round medallion. The medallion is silver with a raised rim inside of which is inscribed **VIRIBUS UNITIS** (with united strength, the motto of Franz Joseph's reign) the silver letters are separated by ovals. At the top of the circular silver center medallion are a pair of clasped hands (this represents the loyalty of the people). Inside the first ring is a second raised silver border. Inside this inner border are the initials **FJ** (Franz Joseph) on a lined silver background. The monogram is silver and is part of the center medallion. The upper arm of the cross is attached to a crown affixed to the cross by two banderoles of metal, which extend from the lower edge of the crown to the upper edge of the cross. The crown is the imperial crown but is smaller in this type cross than in later versions. The crown is very detailed. Through the orb at the top of the crown passes a ring for suspending the cross from a ribbon. These crosses were made by F. Braun and A. Kittner
- Type I Silver Cross with Crown 1849-1875 **reverse**: The reverse of the cross is red enameled with a silver border. The center medallion is silver and has a granulated border around it. It has a raised silver rim inside of which is a round silver medallion. On the lined silver medallion is the raised date **1849** in silver. The date is an integral part of the silver center medallion. The reverse of the banderoles and the crown are similar to the obverse side and are very detailed.







## Merit Cross (Verdienstkreuz)



Images courtesy of Dorotheum

### Variations continued:

#### Silver Cross with crown:

- Type II Silver Cross with crown, 1875-1914 **obverse**: The same as the Type I cross except the crown is larger
- Type II Silver Cross with crown, 1875-1914 **reverse**: The same as the Type I cross except the crown is larger
- Type III Silver Cross with crown, 1875-1918 **obverse**: The same as the Type II cross except the crown has a red enamel inner liner
- Type III Silver Cross with crown, 1875-1918 **reverse**: The same as the Type II cross except the crown has a red enamel inner liner



Images courtesy of Dorotheum





## Merit Cross (Verdienstkreuz)



### Variations continued:

#### Silver Cross with crown:

- Type IV Silver Cross with crown, 1875-1914 **obverse**: The same as the Type III cross except the raised circles of the center medallion are much finer and less raised and the crown has a red enamel inner liner
- Type IV Silver Cross with crown, 1875-1914 **reverse**: The same as the Type III cross except the outer ring of the center medallion is filled with silver laurel leaves. These crosses were made by Rothe & Neffe
- Type V Silver Cross with crown, 1914-1918 **obverse**: The same as the Type III cross except the crown has points on the top sides. This cross was made by Wilhelm Kunz
- Type V Silver Cross with crown, 1914-1918 **reverse**: The same as the Type III cross except the crown has points on the top



Picture courtesy of Dorotheum





## Merit Cross (Verdienstkreuz)

Images courtesy of Dorotheum



### Variations continued:

#### Silver Cross with crown:

- Type VI Silver Cross with crown, circa 1914 **obverse**: The same as the Type IV cross except the center medallion is enameled white.
- Type VI Silver Cross with crown circa 1914 **reverse**: The same as the Type IV cross except the center medallion is enameled white. These crosses were made by Rothe & Neffe and Julius Leeb
- Type VII Silver Cross with crown, 1914-1918 **obverse**: The same as the Type IV cross This cross was made by Friedrich Rotha
- Type VII Silver Cross with crown, 1914-1918 **reverse**: The same as the Type IV cross except the band around the center medallion is engraved with a dedication. This cross was made by Friedrich Rotha

Images courtesy of Dorotheum







## Merit Cross (Verdienstkreuz)



Image courtesy of Dorotheum

### Silver Cross:

- Type I: Type I Silver Cross 1849-1918 **obverse**: A 28 mm Rupert type cross with wide flared enameled arms bordered in silver. In the center of the cross is an applied, round medallion. The medallion is silver with a raised rim inside of which is inscribed **VIRIBUS UNITIS** (with united strength, the motto of Franz Joseph's reign) the silver letters are separated by ovals. At the top of the circular silver center medallion are a pair of clasped hands (this represents the loyalty of the people). Inside the first ring is a second raised silver border. Inside this inner border are the initials **FJ** (Franz Joseph) on a lined silver background. The monogram is silver and is part of the center medallion. The upper arm of the cross has a ball shaped eye for suspending the cross from the ribbon.
- Type I Silver Cross 1849-1918 **reverse**: The reverse of the cross is red enameled with a silver border. The center medallion is silver and has a granulated border around it. It has a raised silver rim inside of which is a round silver medallion. On the lined silver medallion is the raised date **1849** in silver. The upper arm of the cross has a ball shaped eye for suspending the cross from the ribbon.
- Type II Silver Cross 1914-1918: The same as the type I cross except the crosses are 33-36 mm in diameter
- Type III Silver Cross 1875-1914 **obverse**: The same as Type II except that the obverse center medallion is more concave.
- Type III Silver Cross 1875-1914 **reverse**: The same as Type II except the reverse has a circle of laurel leaves around the edge of the reverse medallion instead of a pebbled finish. This cross was known to be made by Rothe & Neffe.





## Merit Cross (Verdienstkreuz)



**Designer:** Paul Sprenger designed the cross and the firm of Alexander Kittner produced the first crosses

**Manufacturer:**

- Anthia Bachruch (1914-1918)
- Karl Bohm, (1914-1918)
- Franz Braun (1845-1875)
- Heinrich Jauner (1914-1918)
- Hauptmunzamt Wien (Imperial Mint, Vienna)
- Alexander Kittner (1849-1875)
- Alexander E. Kochert (1914-1918)
- Wilhelm Kuntz (1914-1918)
- Rudolf Marshall (1914-1918)
- Vincent Mayer and Sons (1875-1918)
- Gebruder Resch (1914-1918)
- Rothe & Neffe (1875-1918)
- Rozet and Fischmeister (1875-1918)
- Georg Adam Scheid (1914-1918)
- Schneider Bros (1914-1918)
- Karl Schwerdtner (1914-1918)
- Heinrich Ulbricht's Witwe (1914-1918)
- Gebruder Schneider (1850-1922)
- Julius Leeb (1914-1918)
- Karl Fleischhacker (1914-1918)

**Number Issued:**

- Gold Merit Cross with crown on the war ribbon with swords = Unknown
- Gold Merit Cross with crown on the war ribbon = Unknown
- Gold Merit Cross on the civil ribbon = Unknown
- Gold Merit Cross on the war ribbon with swords = Unknown
- Gold Merit Cross on the war ribbon = Unknown
- Gold Merit Cross on the civil ribbon = Unknown
- Silver Merit Cross with crown on the war ribbon with swords = Unknown
- Silver Merit Cross with crown on the war ribbon = Unknown
- Silver Merit Cross on the civil ribbon = Unknown
- Silver Merit Cross on the war ribbon with swords = Unknown
- Silver Merit Cross on the war ribbon = Unknown
- Silver Merit Cross on the civil ribbon = Unknown
- The first women to receive the award was Ida von Steeb-Rehm in 1850





## Merit Cross (Verdienstkreuz)



### Order of Precedence:

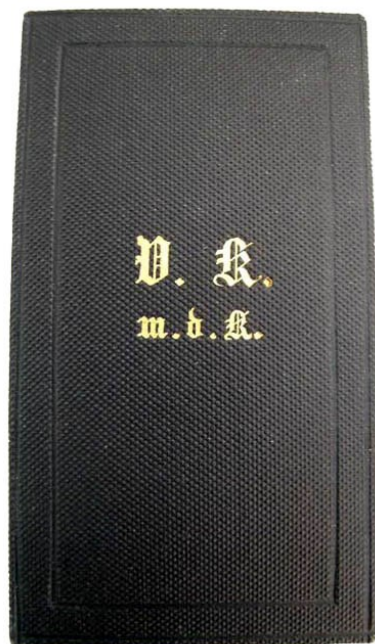
- Gold Merit Cross with crown, is number 38 after the Bravery Medal in Gold and before the War Cross for Civil Merit, first class
- Gold Merit Cross, is number 42 after the Red Cross Officers Cross and before the Silver Bravery Medal, first class
- Silver Merit Cross with crown, is number 47 after the Elizabeth Medal and before the Silver Merit Cross
- Silver Merit Cross, is number 48 after the Silver Merit Cross with crown and before the iron Merit Cross with Crown







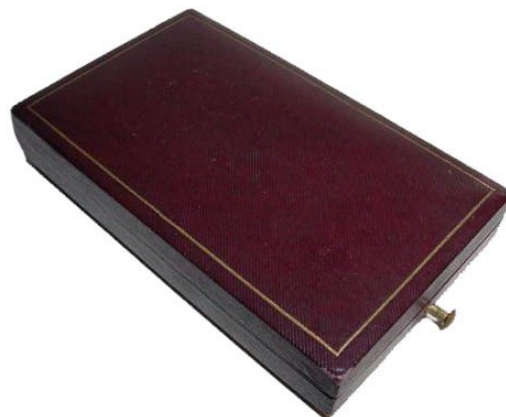
## Merit Cross (Verdienstkreuz)



**Gold Cross with Crown Case:** There are many variations of the cases for this award. Some examples are illustrated below

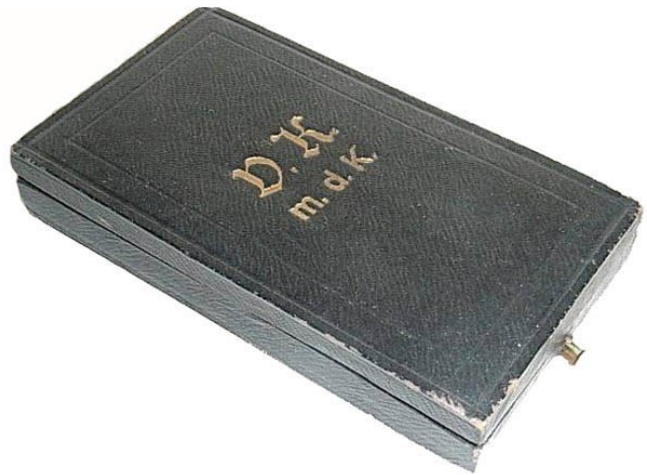
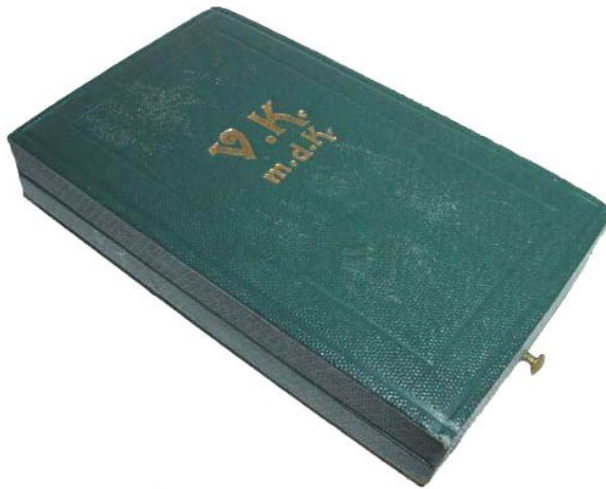
- Type I: A dark blue fabric over cardboard case, which is 2 inches wide and 4 inches long. The fabric has a pebbled finish. On the outer lid is the following gilt inscription in two lines: **V.K/ m.d.k.** The inside of the lid is white satin with a gold imperial coat of arms. The inside of the bottom of the case is white fitted plush. The case is fitted with the portion designed to hold the cross, raised. There is no maker logo in the case. This type case was used by Johann Schwerdtner, Rothe and Karl. Bohm
- Type II: A dark blue fabric over cardboard case, which is 2 inches wide and 4 inches long. The fabric has a pebbled finish. On the outer lid is the following gilt inscription in two lines: **V.K/ m.d.k.** The inside of the lid is white satin with a gold makers logo. The inside of the bottom of the case is dark blue (black) fitted plush. This type case was used by Vinc Mayer & Sons
- Type III: The same as type I except that the outer lid has two embossed lines which follow the contour of the box. The inner lid has a gilt embossed Hapsburg arms. The plush portion of the inner box is all white. The bottom of the box has stamped on it in purple ink the date and the word bronze in a rectangle. The box maker's logo also appears on the lower edge of the box, **ETUIS U. KASSETTENFABRIK JG. BERGMANN WIENN VII.** These cases have been seen with dates from 1915 - 1918
- Type IV: A maroon leather case with a fine gilt line along the top edge of the case. The inner portion is white with the top having the logo of Heinrich Jauner. The bottom interior is fitted for the decoration.

**Note:** During the WWI era some cases for all versions of this decoration were made by J.G. Bergmann



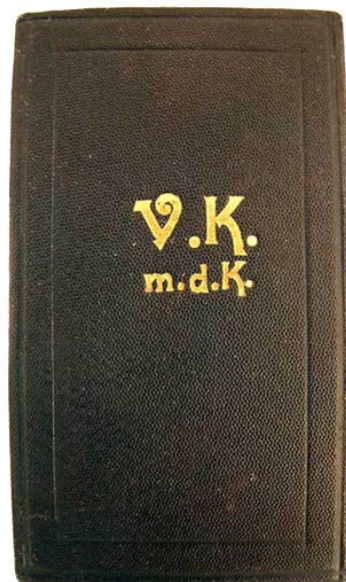


## Merit Cross (Verdienstkreuz)



### Gold Cross with Crown Case continued:

- Type V: A teal blue fabric over cardboard case, which is 2 inches wide and 4 inches long. The fabric has a simulated leather finish. On the outer lid is the following gilt inscription in two lines: **V.K / m.d.k.** The inside of the lid is white satin with a gold imperial coat of arms. The inside of the bottom of the case is white fitted plush. There is no maker logo in the case. This type case was used by A. Bachruch of Budapest
- Type VI: A dark blue leather case, which is 2 inches wide and 4 inches long. On the outer lid is the following gilt inscription in two lines: **V.K / m.d.k.** The inside of the lid is white satin with a gold imperial coat of arms. This type case was used by Schwerdtner of Vienna
- Type VII: A maroon fabric over cardboard case, which is 2 inches wide and 4 inches long. The fabric has a pebbled finish. On the outer lid is the following gilt inscription in two lines: **V.K/ m.d.k.** The inside of the lid is white satin with a gold imperial coat of arms. The inside of the bottom of the case is white fitted plush. The case is fitted with the portion designed to hold the cross, raised. There is no maker logo in the case.





**Merit Cross**  
(Verdienstkreuz)



**Gold Cross with Crown Case continued:**

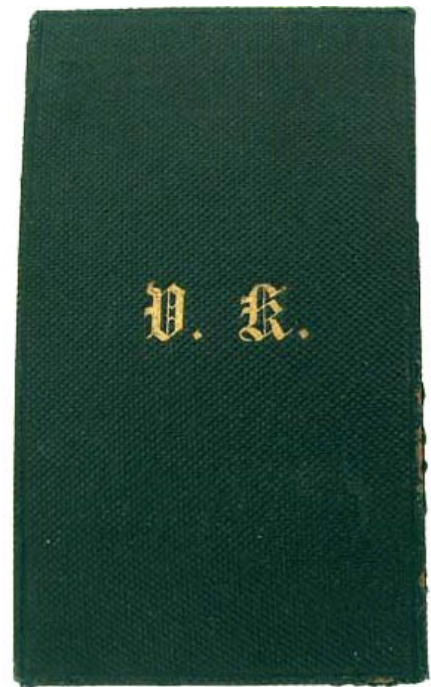
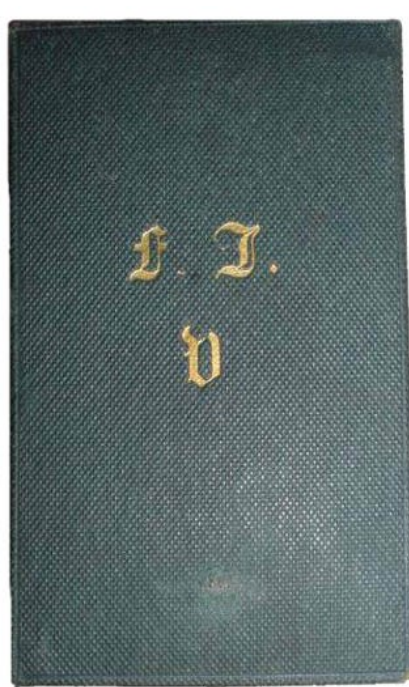
- Type VIII: A red fabric over cardboard simulated leather case. The fabric has a pebbled finish. On the outer lid is the following type of gilt inscription in two lines: **Zur Erinnerung an gemeinsame Arbeit 1915/16 k.u.k. Milit. Vgs. Verwalter S. Lieblein.** The inside of the lid is white satin and bears the Rothe makers logo in gilt. This is a presentation case and is of a higher quality than the normal cases in which this award was issued







## Merit Cross (Verdienstkreuz)



### Gold Cross Case:

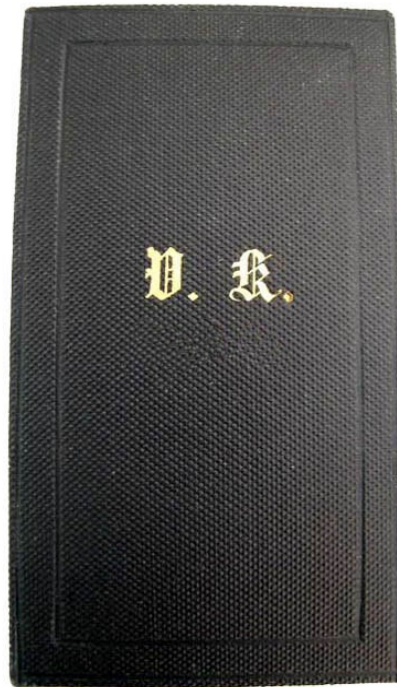
There are several variations of the cases for this award. Some examples are illustrated

- Type I: A dark blue fabric over cardboard case, which is 2 inches wide and 4 inches long. The fabric has a pebbled finish. On the outer lid is the following gilt inscription in two lines: **F. J. / V**. The inside of the lid is white satin with a gold imperial coat of arms. The inside of the bottom of the case is white, black or fawn fitted plush. The case is fitted with the portion designed to hold the cross, raised. There is no maker logo in the case. The bottom of the case is white. This type case was used by Johann Schwerdtner (fawn or white fitted bottom) and F. Braun (dark fitted bottom)
- Type II: A dark blue fabric over cardboard case, which is 2 inches wide and 4 inches long. The fabric has a pebbled finish. On the outer lid is the following gilt inscription in two lines: **V. K.**. The inside of the lid is white satin with a gold Maker logo. The inside of the bottom of the case is white fitted plush. The bottom of the case is simulated leather similar to the cover. This type case was used by Vinc Mayer & Sons and by Rothe.



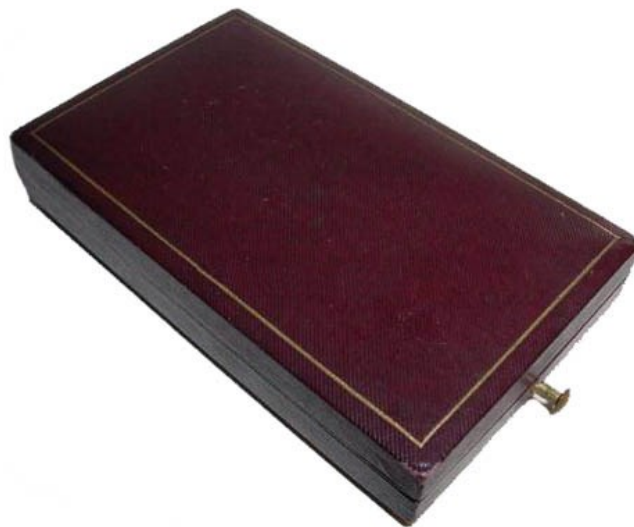


**Merit Cross**  
(Verdienstkreuz)



**Gold Cross Case continued:**

- Type III: The same as type I except that it has **V.K.** on the outer lid and has two embossed lines which follow the contour of the box. The inner lid has a gilt embossed Hapsburg arms. The plush portion of the inner box is all white. The bottom of the box has stamped on it in purple ink the date and the word bronze in a rectangle.
- Type IV: A maroon leather case with a fine gilt line along the top edge of the case. The inner portion is white with the top having the logo of Heinrich Jauner. The bottom interior is fitted for the decoration





## Merit Cross (Verdienstkreuz)



**Silver Cross with Crown Case continued:** There are several variations of the cases for this award. Some examples are illustrated

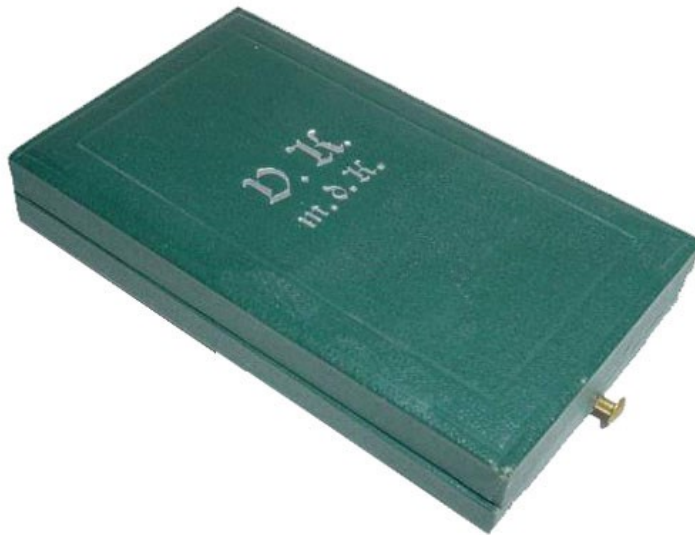
- Type I: The outer lid is blue simulated leather and has an embossed line, which follow the contour of the box. The outer lid is inscribed, in silver, **V.K. m.d.k.** The inner lid is lined white silk and has the embossed Habsburg arms in gilt. The plush portion of the bottom of the case is fawn. The bottom of the box often has the date of issue stamped on it in purple ink. The box maker's logo may also appear on the bottom of the box, for example **ETUIS U. KASSETTENFABRIK JG. BERGMANN WIENN VII.** These cases have been seen with dates from 1915 - 1918. Cases of this type are known to have been used by the Schneider Brothers and by Rozett & Fischmeister.
- Type II: The same as type I except that the outer lid is maroon and has two embossed lines, which follow the contour of the box. The inner lid has a gilt embossed Rothe and Neffe logo. The plush portion of the inner box is black. The bottom of the box has is also black.
- Type III: A red simulated leather case with a silver **V.K. / m.d.k.** inscription on the lid. These cases are known to have been used by Heinrich Jauner and G.A. Scheid







**Merit Cross**  
(Verdienstkreuz)



**Silver Cross with Crown Case continued:**

- Type IV: A teal blue fabric over cardboard case, which is 2 inches wide and 4 inches long. The fabric has a simulated leather finish. On the outer lid is the following gilt inscription in two lines: **V.K / m.d.k.** The inside of the lid is white satin with a gold imperial coat of arms. The inside of the bottom of the case is white fitted plush. There is no maker logo in the case. This type case was used by A. Bachruch of Budapest





## Merit Cross (Verdienstkreuz)



**Silver Cross Case:** There are many variations of the cases for this award. Some examples are illustrated below

- Type I: The outer lid is blue-pebbled cloth and has two embossed lines, which follow the contour of the box. The outer lid is inscribed, in silver, **V.K.** The inner lid has the embossed Hapsburg arms in gilt. The plush portion of the inner box is all white. Cases of this type were used by Rothe.
- Type II: The outer lid is blue-pebbled cloth and the outer lid is inscribed, in silver, **F.J./ V** The inner lid has the embossed Hapsburg arms in gilt. The plush portion of the inner box is all white. Cases of this type were used by F.Braun of Vienna.
- Type III: A rectangular case with a rounded end. The outer lid is blue-pebbled leather or simulated leather and has an embossed lines, which follow the contour of the box. The outer lid is inscribed, in gold, **F.J. /V.** The inner lid is white silk and often had the Hapsburg arms or the maker's logo in gilt. The plush portion of the inner box is all white. Cases of this type were used by Kittner.





## Merit Cross (Verdienstkreuz)



### Ribbon:

- Prior to September 20, 1914 crosses were only issued on a 38 mm red ribbon. After September 20, 1914 crosses for military merit were issued on a 40 mm red and white-laddered (War Ribbon) ribbon which was the same as is used for the bravery medals.

A small rectangular ribbon for this decoration sometimes issued with small attachments to indicate specific awards was introduced in October 27, 1917.







## Merit Cross (Verdienstkreuz)



**Attachments:** Gilt swords were authorized on December 13, 1916. 50 mm long and 8 mm wide rhomboid shaped metal clasps were authorized on February 17, 1918 to signify an additional award of the Golden Merit Cross with Crown. All of the crosses except the Gold Merit Cross with crown could only be awarded once. If additional recognition was warranted the next highest grade of the cross was awarded. Prior to the authorization of the additional award bar the Gold Merit Cross with Crown could be awarded twice and both decorations could be worn at the same time. When a second award bar was awarded with swords they were placed on the second award bar.





(Verdienstkreuz)

**Miniature:** Various miniatures are known to exist

- Gold Cross miniature with crown: 34X22 mm and weighs 6.4 grams



**Image courtesy of Dorotheum**







## Merit Cross (Verdienstkreuz)



Image courtesy of Dorotheum

**A group of three awards including the Gold Merit Cross with crown on the war ribbon**

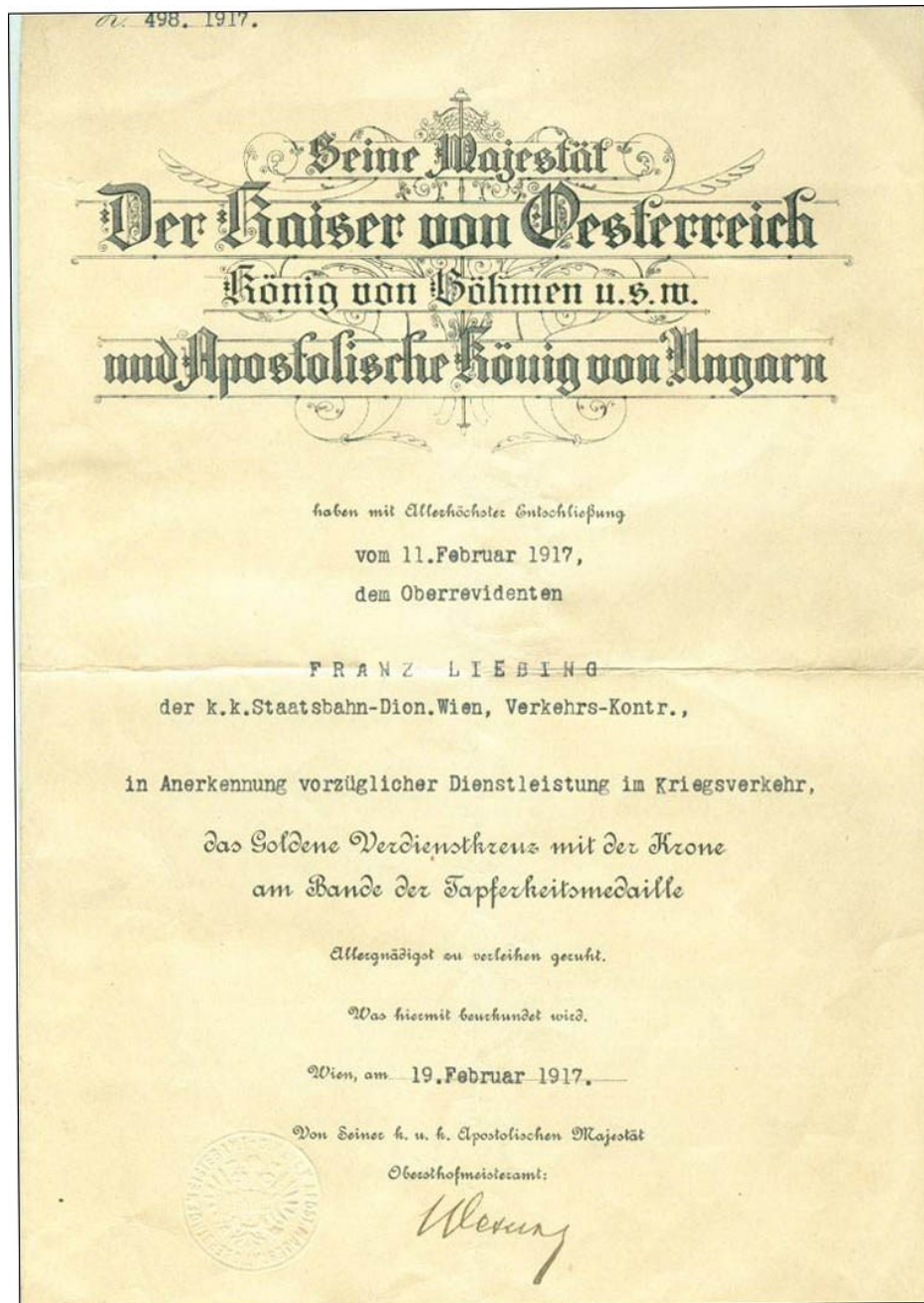
**A group with eleven awards including the Silver Merit Cross with crown on the war ribbon**







Merit Cross  
(Verdienstkreuz)



Gold Merit Cross with crown on war ribbon document to Franz Liebing  
February 19, 1917





Merit Cross  
(Verdienstkreuz)



N. 1678 1915.

Seine Majestät  
Der Kaiser von Oesterreich  
König von Böhmen u. s. w.  
und Apostolische König von Ungarn

haben mit Allerhöchster Entschließung

vom 14. August 1915,

dem Feuerwerker

JOSEF SIMON

des ung. Landwehr Feld- Kanonen - Regiments Nr. 8,

in Anerkennung besonders pflichttreuer Dienstleistung vor dem Feinde,

das Silberne Verdienstkreuz mit der Krone  
am Bande der Tapferkeitsmedaille

Allernüchternst zu verleihen gesucht.

Was hiermit bezeugt wird.

Wien, am 21. August 1915.

Von Seiner k. u. k. Apostolischen Majestät

Obersthofmeisteramt;

*Weying*

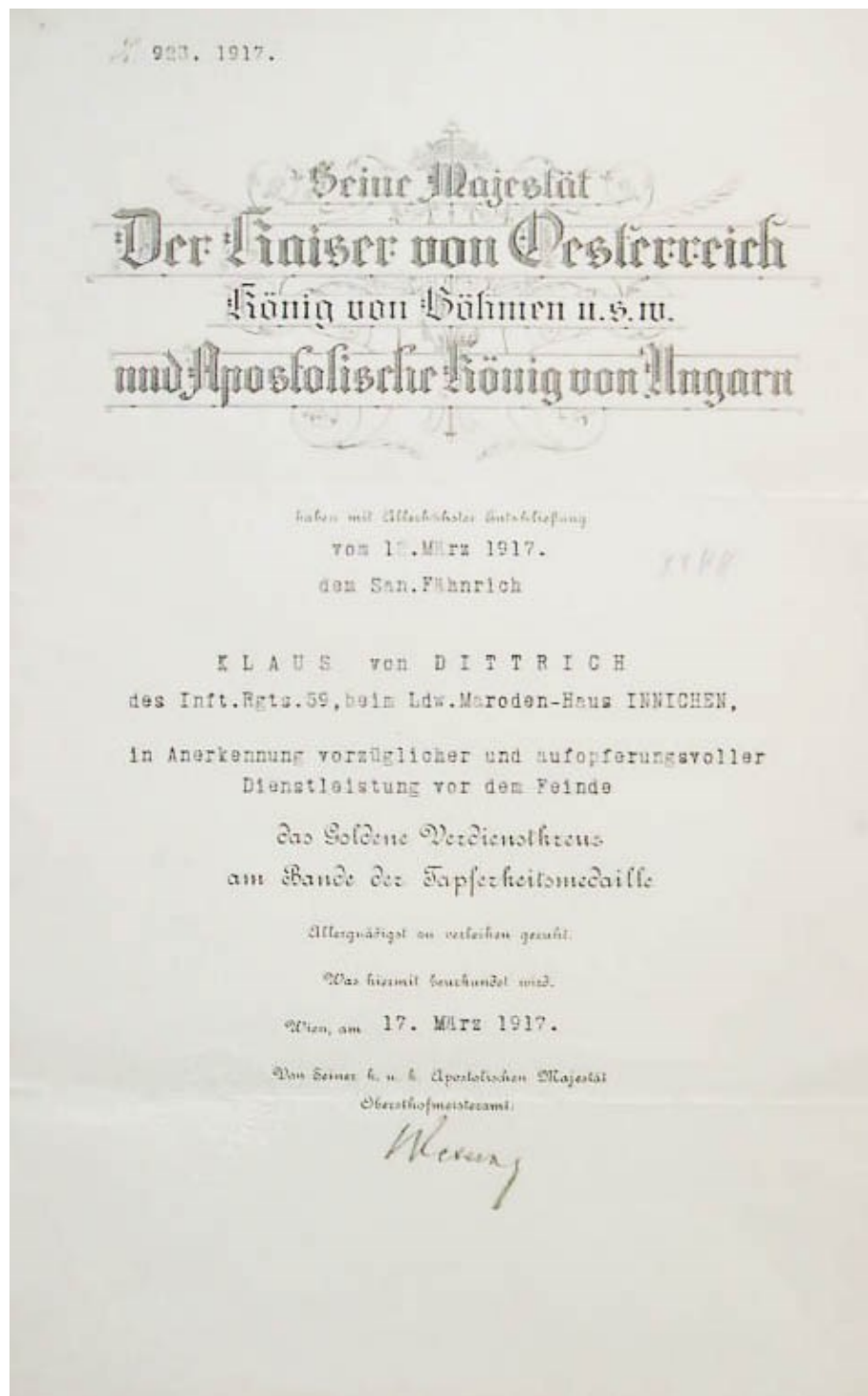


Silver Merit Cross with crown on war ribbon document to artillery gunner Josef Simon  
August 21, 1915





**Merit Cross**  
(Verdienstkreuz)



**Gold Merit Cross on war ribbon document to a member of the 59th Landwehr Klaus von Dittich  
March 17, 1917**







**Merit Cross**  
(Verdienstkreuz)



**A Hungarian Ornogy (Major) wearing the Gold Merit Cross with crown on war ribbon with swords**





**Merit Cross**  
(Verdienstkreuz)



Picture Courtesy of Roger Salisch

**An Air Fleet Feldwebel wearing the Gold Merit Cross with crown on the war ribbon**





**Merit Cross  
(Verdienstkreuz)**



**A Military Official of the 9th rank class (Captain) wearing the Gold Merit Cross with crown on the civil ribbon**







**Merit Cross**  
(Verdienstkreuz)



**A Quartermaster Lieutenant wearing two merit crosses  
The Gold Merit Cross with crown on the civil ribbon  
and  
The Silver Merit Cross with crown on the civil ribbon**





**Merit Cross**  
(Verdienstkreuz)



**A female teacher from Prague wearing the Silver Merit Cross with crown on the civil ribbon**





## War Cross for Civil Merit (Kriegskreuz für Zivilverdienste)



Image courtesy of Dorotheum

**Date Issued:** August 16, 1915 - October 6, 1918

**Reason Issued:** To reward those civilians who have, in connection with the war, performed especially meritorious civil service involving outstanding zeal and sacrifice.

**Classes or Types:** This decoration was issued in four classes:

- War Cross for Civil Merit, first class
- War Cross for Civil Merit, second class
- War Cross for Civil Merit, third class
- War Cross for Civil Merit, fourth class

**Interesting Facts:**

- The class of the award issued was dependent on the significance of the service rendered to the empire and the social rank of the recipient.
- Crosses could be awarded to women
- This is the last award authorized by the Emperor Franz Joseph.
- Colonel General Karl Georg Reichsgraf von Huyn was the only officer to receive this award while on active duty
- This was one of eight Austro-Hungarian awards authorized by statute to be issued in a jeweled version: The other seven were the Order of the Golden Fleece, The Military Order of Maria Theresia, The Order of St. Stephan, the Order of Leopold, The Austrian Imperial Order of the Iron Crown, (although the statutes of this order authorize the wearing of jeweled insignia with the permission of the emperor there are no known authorized examples of this insignia), the Military Merit Cross the Elisabeth Order. In each case they were issued to indicate the special regard of the emperor.

**Hallmarks:** Crosses are usually hallmarked on the back. They are marked on the pin, wreath and back of the cross. The following marks have been found on these crosses.

- The Vienna 1890-1921 assay office stamp, found on the first and third class crosses
- The April 1, 1872 - May 1, 1922, 900 fine silver hallmark, on the first, second and third class crosses.
- The Vienna Werkstaetten mark, found on the first, second and third class crosses.
- The capital letter B (Buchruch) is found on the third class crosses.
- The Vienna 1866-1890 assay office stamp, found on the second class crosses
- The 1872-1890 tax release stamp, found on the second and third class crosses
- The mark of Rozet & Fishmeister is found on some second class crosses
- SGA, the mark of George Adam Scheid, Budapest
- Base metal asterisk on the pin of the War Cross for Civil Merit, fourth class
- F. Rothe Mark

- The mark of Alexander E. Kochert (on the only two jeweled versions of the cross)







## War Cross for Civil Merit (Kriegskreuz für Zivilverdienste)



Image courtesy of Dorotheum

**Design:** A pin back convex Greek clawed cross pattee the arms of which widen towards their ends and the tips of which are double curved so that ends feature three points. The cross is embellished with an oak wreath that passes over the vertical arms and under the horizontal arms of the cross.

**Obverse:**

- For the first class the obverse arms of the cross are enameled white. The border of the cross is gilt silver and is 3 mm in width. 1 mm Inside of the enameled portion of the cross arm is a .5 mm gold band which follows the contour of the arm of the cross. The center of the cross has the applied monogram **FJI**, in gilt, around which is a 3 mm wide oval band 28 mm by 24 mm in size. The band is enameled white with a gilt inscription **MERITO CIVILI TEMPORE BELLI MCMXV** (Civilian merit in time of war 1915). Passing over the upper and lower arms and under the horizontal arms is a 6 mm wide gilt oak leaf wreath.
- For the second class the obverse arms of the cross are enameled white. The border of the cross is gilt silver and is 2 mm in width. 1 mm Inside of the enameled portion of the cross arm is a .25 mm gold band which follows the contour of the arm of the cross. The center of the cross has the applied monogram **FJI**, in gilt, around which is a 2 mm wide oval band 18 mm by 16 mm in size. The band is enameled white with a gilt inscription **MERITO CIVILI TEMPORE BELLI MCMXV** (Civilian Merit in time of war 1915). Passing over the upper and lower arms and under the horizontal arms is a 4 mm wide gilt oak leaf wreath.
- For the third class the obverse arms of the cross are enameled white. The border of the cross is silver and is 2 mm in width. 1 mm Inside of the enameled portion of the cross arm is a .25 mm silver band which follows the contour of the arm of the cross. The center of the cross has the applied monogram **FJI**, in silver, around which is a 2 mm wide oval band 18 mm by 16 mm in size. The band is enameled white with a silver inscription **MERITO CIVILI TEMPORE BELLI MCMXV** (Civilian Merit in time of war 1915). Passing over the upper and lower arms and under the horizontal arms is a 4 mm wide silver oak leaf wreath.
- For the fourth class the obverse arms of the cross are frosted gold. The border of the cross is bright gold and is 3 mm in width. The inside portion of the cross arm is inset and follows the contour of the arm of the cross. The center of the cross has the applied monogram **FJI**, in gilt, around which is a 2 mm wide oval band 18 mm by 16 mm in size. The band is gilt with the inscription **MERITO CIVILI TEMPORE BELLI MCMXV** (Civilian Merit in time of war 1915). Passing over the upper and lower arms and under the horizontal arms is a 4 mm wide gilt oak leaf wreath.





## War Cross for Civil Merit (Kriegskreuz für Zivilverdienste)



**Reverse:** The reverse of the cross is plain. This includes the reverse of the wreath. In the center of the cross are two small compressed nuts. They are used to attach the FJI monogram to the cross.

**Weight:**

- War Cross for Civil Merit, first class: 62 grams
- War Cross for Civil Merit, second class: 28 grams
- War Cross for Civil Merit, third class: 28 grams
- War Cross for Civil Merit, forth class: 26 grams

**Size:**

- First Class: 64 mm in diameter
- Second Class: 44 mm in diameter
- Third Class: 44 mm in diameter
- Forth Class: 44 mm in diameter

**Type of Material:**

- First Class: Gilt silver and enamel
- Second Class: Gilt silver and enamel
- Third Class: Silver and enamel
- Forth Class: Gilt bronze.
- All classes in war metal

**Variations:**

- Type I: as described above
- Type II: A first class cross in diamonds was issued in February 14, 1918 by Emperor Karl; as described above but with diamonds.
- Type III: Examples were made at the end of the war in base metal and in these cases the wreaths were attached but did not pass over and under the arms

**Designer:** Josef Hoffmann





## War Cross for Civil Merit (Kriegskreuz für Zivilverdienste)



Image courtesy of Dorotheum

### Manufacturer:

- First Class in diamonds: Alexander Kochert of Vienna
- First Class: Wiener Werkstatte, Alexander Kochert of Vienna, A. Buchruch in Budapest,
- Second class: Wiener Werkstatte, Rozet & Fischmeister, A. Bachruch in Budapest, C.F Rothe & Neffe, Rudolf Souval, Alexander E Kochert, Schneider Brothers Franz Rumwolf, Georg Adam Scheid, Vincenz Mayer's Sons, Johann Schachinger, and Josef Zimble
- Third Class: Wiener Werkstatte, Rozet & Fischmeister, A. Bachruch in Budapest, and Alexander E Kochert, Schneider Brothers Franz Rumwolf, Georg Adam Scheid Vincenz Mayer's Sons, Johann Schachinger and Josef Zimble
- Forth class: Wiener Werkstatte, Rozet & Fischmeister, A. Bachruch in Budapest, Rudolf Souval, Josef Zimble
- Unknown class: Heinrich Schachinger,

### Number Issued:

- First Class in diamonds = 2 insignia were made and 1 was issued to Kajetan Merey von Kapos-Mere the Plenipotentiary and ambassador to the peace talks in 1917 which took place at Brest-Litowsk. (Awarded February 14, 1918)
- First Class = 234 of which 41 were awarded to women. Only one of these awards was given to an active serving officer in the armed forces: Colonel General Karl Georg Reichsgraf von Huyn (May 1917)
- Second Class = 3,700
- Third Class = 5,400
- Forth Class = 4,000

### Order of Precedence:

- War Cross for Civil Merit, first class, is number 39 after the Gold Merit Cross with crown and before the Franz Joseph Commemoration Cross, Second Class
- War Cross for Civil Merit, second class, is number 52 after the 1873 War Medal and before the Schleswig-Holstein Campaign Medal for 1864
- War Cross for Civil Merit, third class, is number 58 after the Karl Troop Cross and before the Officers Military Service Decoration, first class
- War Cross for Civil Merit, forth class, is number 69 after the 1908 Landsturm Medal and before the Red Cross Silver Honor Medal







## War Cross for Civil Merit (Kriegskreuz für Zivilverdienste)



Image courtesy of Dorotheum

### Case:

- Type I: A red simulated leather case. The case has no inscription. The exterior bottom is white cardboard. The inside of the lid is white satin and sometimes has the maker's logo. The bottom interior is white or fawn colored plush. The interior bottom is fitted for the cross. The box for the second, third and fourth class is 73 mm in diameter and 25 mm thick.





## War Cross for Civil Merit (Kriegskreuz für Zivilverdienste)



Image courtesy of Dorotheum

### Case:

- Type II: A black simulated leather case. The inner portion of the lid has a white satin inner liner and the maker's logo A. Kuchert of Budapest. The inside of the bottom of the box is black velvet and is fitted. Size 70 mm in diameter and 25 mm thick
- Type III: A Maroon leather case. There is no inscription on the lid. The inner portion of the lid has a plain white satin inner liner. The inside of the bottom of the box is fawn plush and is fitted.





## War Cross for Civil Merit (Kriegskreuz für Zivilverdienste)



Picture courtesy of Dorotheum

### Miniature Group on a chain including the War Cross for Civil Merit third class

**Ribbon:** None

**Attachments:** None

**Miniature:** Miniatures of all classes are known to exist and were made by the Wiener Werkstatte

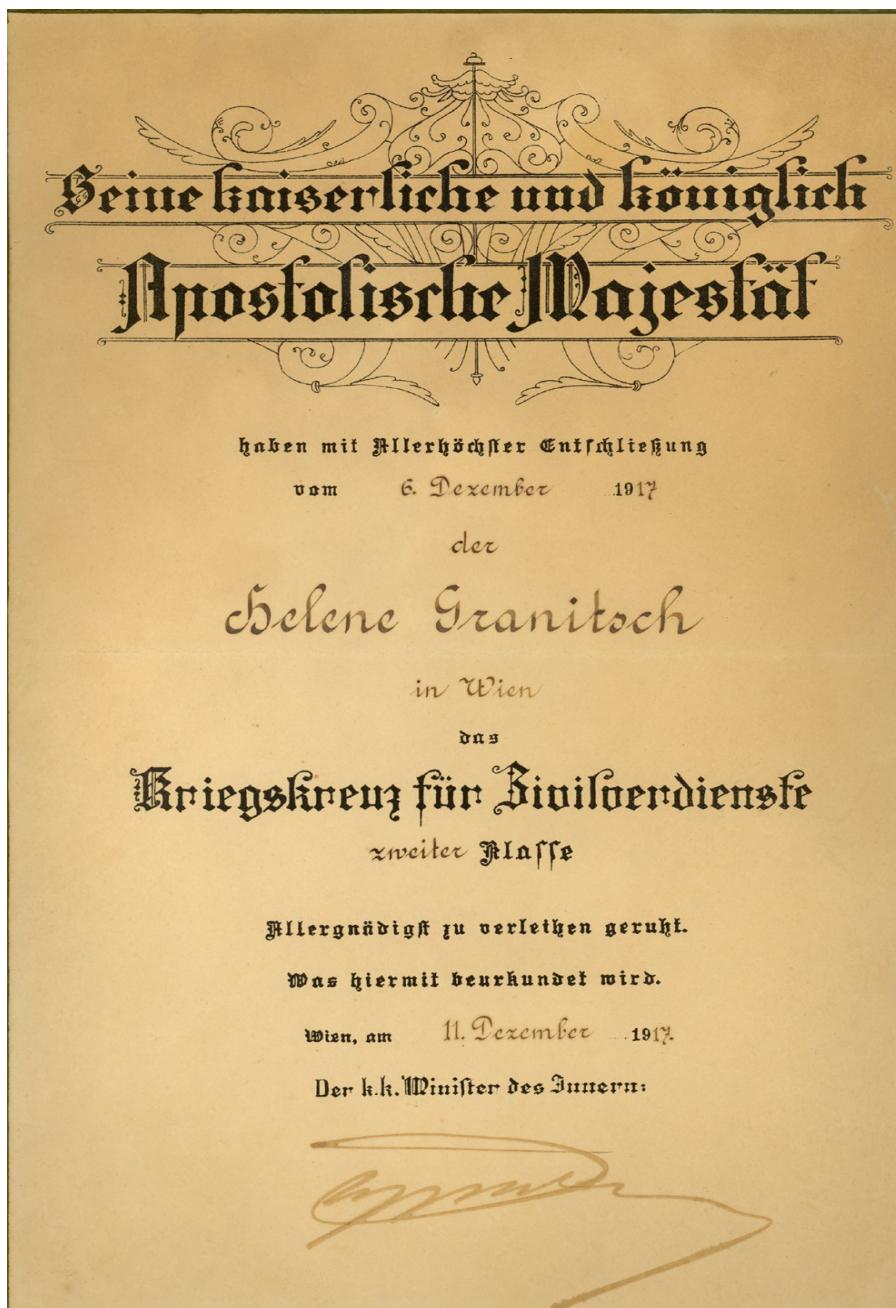
- First Class miniature: 18 mm in diameter and 3.1 grams







War Cross for Civil Merit  
(Kriegskreuz für Zivilverdienste)

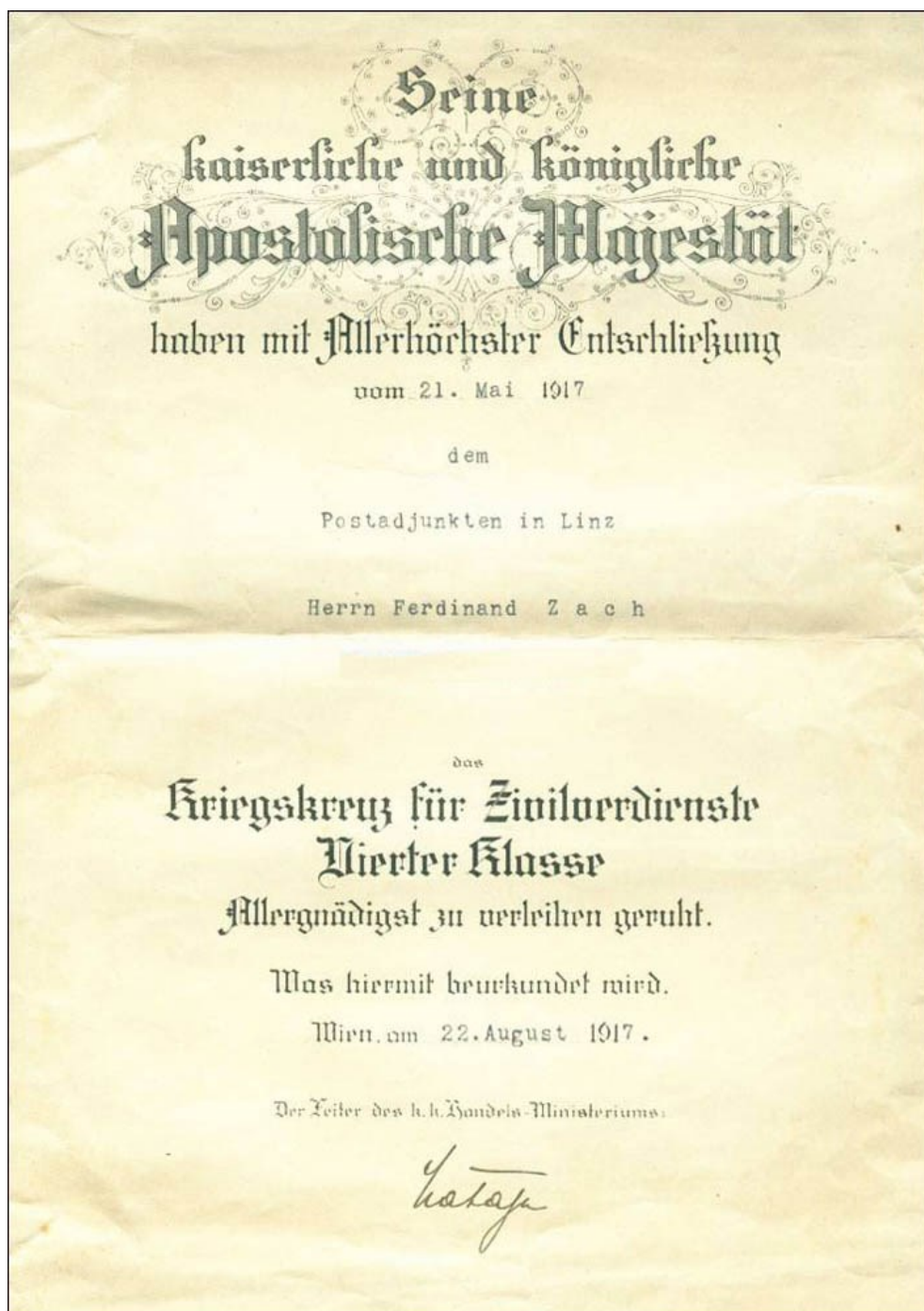


Award document for the War Cross for Civil Merit  
Second class to Helene Granitsch issued in 1917





War Cross for Civil Merit  
(Kriegskreuz für Zivilverdienste)



Award document for the War Cross for Civil Merit  
Fourth class to Ferdinand Zach Assistant Postmaster of Linz  
Issued in 1917





**War Cross for Civil Merit**  
(Kriegskreuz für Zivilverdienste)



**Recipients of the War Cross for Civil Merit, first class**

**April 19, 1916**

- Stefan Freiherr Burian Foreign Minister
- Karl Graf Sturgkh Royal and Imperial, Prime Minister
- Stephan Graf Tisza Royal Hungarian, Prime Minister

**August 18, 1916**

- Dr. Karl Mathis Section Chief in LVM

**August 31, 1916**

- Dr. Karl Freiherr von Macchio, Section Chief, Plenipotentiary and Ambassador designate.
- Dr. Johann Forgach von Ghymes and Gacs, Section Chief, Acting Plenipotentiary and Ambassador designate
- Dr. Markus Count von Wickenburg, Section Chief
- Theodor Ippen, Acting Section Chief, GenKons, First Class
- Johann Markgraf von Pallavicini, Plenipotentiary and Ambassador.
- Kajetan Mere von Kapos-Mere, Plenipotentiary and Ambassador (Later received the award in diamonds)
- Douglas Count von Thurn and Valsassina, Plenipotentiary and Ambassador
- Johann Prince Schonburg-Hartenstein Plenipotentiary and Ambassador
- Gottfried Prince zu Hohenlohe-Schillingsfurst, Plenipotentiary and Ambassador
- Karl Freiherr von Braun, Envoy Extraordinary and authorized minister.
- Hugo Freiherr von Rhemen zu Barenfeld Envoy Extraordinary and authorized minister.
- Rudolf Pogatscher Envoy Extraordinary and authorized minister.
- Dr. Karl Freiherr von Giskra Envoy Extraordinary and authorized minister.
- Dr. Dionys Count Szechenvi de Savar et Felso-Videk Envoy Extraordinary and authorized minister.
- Albert Count Nemes von Hidveg, Envoy Extraordinary and authorized minister.
- Eduard Otto Envoy Extraordinary and authorized minister.
- Dr. Ludwig Count Szechenyi de Savar et Felso-Videk Envoy Extraordinary and authorized minister.
- Maximilian Count Hadik von Futak Envoy Extraordinary and authorized minister.
- Dr. Adam Count Tarnowski von Tarnow Envoy Extraordinary and authorized minister.
- Stephan von Ugron zu Abranfalfa Envoy Extraordinary and authorized minister.
- Dr. Julius Szilaffy von Szilas und Pilis Envoy Extraordinary and authorized minister.
- Dr. Ludwig Freiherr von Flotow Envoy Extraordinary and authorized minister.
- Ottokar Count Czernin von Chudenitz Envoy Extraordinary and authorized minister.
- Dr. Johann Freiherr von Styrcea Envoy Extraordinary and authorized minister in Dispon.
- Franz Freiherr Riedl von Riedenau Envoy Extraordinary and authorized minister in Dispon.
- Dr. Moritz Count Palffy von Erdod Acting Envoy Extraordinary and authorized minister. LegRat I.Kl.
- Ludwig Count Ambrozy Von Seden Acting Envoy Extraordinary and authorized minister. LegRat I.Kl.
- Adolf Count von Beust acting Envoy Extraordinary and authorized minister. LegRat 2.Kl.
- Maximilian Freiherr von Sonnleithner GenKons. I.Kl.
- Franz Ritter Peter von Thyllnreuth GenKons. I.Kl.
- Alexander Ritter Gunther von Olienburg GenKons. I.Kl.







**War Cross for Civil Merit**  
(Kriegskreuz für Zivilverdienste)



**Recipients of the War Cross for Civil Merit First Class**

**26. October 1916**

- Otto Freiherr Kuhn Von Kuhnfeld Envoy Extraordinary and authorized minister.
- Rudolf Wodianer Envoy Extraordinary and authorized minister

**22. December 1916**

- Edmund Count von Attems Governor of Steirmark
- Dr. Franz Bayer Burgomaster of Reichenau
- Dr. Karl Gros Burgomaster of Prag
- Johann Hauser Governor of Upper Austria
- Otto Graf Serenyi von Kis Serenyi Governor of Mahren
- Dr. Richard Weiskirchner Burgomaster of Vienna

**January 24, 1917**

- Karl Emil Prinz zu Furstenberg Envoy Extraordinary and authorized minister at the Spanish Court

**January 29, 1917**

- Franz Tschoffa, Chancellor of the Supreme Court

**February 27 1917**

- Marie Grafin d'Amleida in Munich
- Elisabeth Grafin von Beust in Munich
- Marie Furstin von Wrede in Munich

**March 9, 1917**

- Aladar Graf Zichy von Zich und Vasonykeo, Royal and Imperial Minister to the Imperial household in Vienna
- Geza Vertesy von Vertesalja, Royal and Imperial State Secretary to the Imperial Household in Vienna

**March 27 1917**

- Dr. Eduard Prinz von und zu Liechtenstein, Privy Councilor to the Ministry of the Interior
- Dr. Wilhelm Prinz zu Stolberg-Wermigerode, German Council in Vienna

**April 4, 1917**

- Rudolf Graf von Abensperg und Traun, National Chancellor of the Red Cross
- Dr. Max Wladimir Freiherr von Beck, Commissar of the Red Cross
  - Andreas Graf Csekonics de Zsombolya et Janova, Commissar of the Hungarian Red Cross





**War Cross for Civil Merit**  
(Kriegskreuz für Zivilverdienste)



**Recipients of the War Cross for Civil Merit First Class**

**April 16, 1917**

- Adalbert Freiherr von Widmann, Silesian Chancellor
- Dr. Johann Freiherr von Friebeis, Government-Vice Chancellor for Vienna
- Dr. Heinrich Ritter von Herget, Government-Vice Chancellor for Prague
- Johann Kosina Government, Vice Chancellor for Prague
- Stephan Freiherr von Kriegs, Chief of the Austrian Section in the Interior Ministry.
- Dr. Georg Pockels, Government-Vice Chancellor for Innsbruck
- Karl Spengler Statthaltereivice Chancellor for Brunn
- Heinrich Ritter Wagner von Kremsthal, Government-Vice Chancellor for Germany.
- Dr. Karl Schima, Chancellor of the Patent Office

**April 23, 1917**

- Dr. Ignaz Freiherr von Ruber, Prime Minister of the German Supreme Court
- Viktor Freiherr von Wessely, Chancellor of the Supreme Court in Prague
- Dr. Friedrich Freiherr von Call zu Rosenberg und Kulmbach, Chancellor of the Supreme Court in Innsbruck
- Dr. August Ritter von Pitreich, Chancellor of the Supreme Court in Graz
- Rudolf Freiherr Regner Von Bleyleben, Chancellor of the Supreme Court in Brunn
- Adolf Czerwinski, Chancellor of the Supreme Court in Lemberg,
- Dr. Franz Homma Ritter von Ammanshof, Interior Ministry Section Chief
- Karl Nemethy von Ujfalusi, State Secretary to the Interior Ministry.
- Gustav Ladik Cabinet Minister to the Royal and Imperial Interior Ministry.

**May 6 1917**

- Karl Graf Lamberg, State parliament delegate and landowner

**May 10, 1917**

- Eduard Bugno, Finance Director for Galicia
- Dr. Oliver Freiherr von Kobe, Finance Director for Kustenland
- Dr. Hermann Ritter Mayr von Linegg, Cabinet Minister for Vienna
- Dr. Karl Ritter Neupauer von Brandhausen, Director General of the National Lottery
- Dr. Rudolf Pensch, Finance Director for Innsbruck

**May 21 1917**

- Dr. Rudolf Freiherr Schuster von Bonnot, Governor of the Postal Savings Bank
- Arthur Herbst, Section Chief in the Commerce Ministry.
- Wilhelm Baron Lers von Szepesbela, State Secretary to the Royal And Imperial Commerce Ministry.





**War Cross for Civil Merit**  
(Kriegskreuz für Zivilverdienste)



**Recipients of the War Cross for Civil Merit First Class**

**May 31, 1917**

- Otto Freiherr von Klimburg, Section Chief in the Public Finance Ministry
- Max von Gyurkovics, Section Chief in the Public Finance Ministry

**May 31 1917**

- Dr. Ladislaus Szalay von Zamoly, Section Chief in the Public Finance Ministry

**June 9, 1917**

- Dr. Heinrich Ritter von Wittek, German Railway Minister.

**July 21 1917**

- Johann Graf Wilczek Protek, of the Wurttemberg. Volunteer Rescue Society.

**August 16, 1917**

- Dr. Friedrich Gustav Piffel, Cardinal, Archbishop of Vienna
- Dr. Johannes Baptist Rossler Bishop of St. Polten
- Dr. Adam Heftler Archbishop of Gurk
- Johann Maria Gfollner Bishop of Linz
- Major General Anton Hofer, Minister
- Friedrich Graf von Toggenburg, Minister
- Dr. Ludwig Cwiklinski, Section Chief
- Dr. Victor Mataja, Chancellor of the Central Committee for Statistics
- Dr. Karl Freiherr von Banhans, Director of the Northern Roads
- Dr. Hugo Ritter von Schauer, Section Chief
- Emil Ritter Homann von Herimberg, Section Chief
- Dr. Moritz Ritter von Ertl, Section Chief
- Dr. Ferdinand Freiherr vom Wimmer, Section Chief
- Dr. Julius von Twardowski-Skrzypna, Section Chief
- Erich Graf Kielmannseg, German Minister, German Governor
- Dr. Alfred Ritter Von Pranter, Section Chief in the Trade Ministry.
- Dr. Viktor Ritter von Rudel, Section Chief in the Railway Ministry
- Dr. Karl Freiherr Rumler von Aichenwehr, Section Chief in the Railway Ministry
- Johann von Nagy Staatssek. Royal Hungarian Minister in the Ministry for Culture and Education
- Johann Ottilik de Felsőozorocz und Kohanocz, State Secretary for the Agricultural Ministry
- Josef Bartoky de Abara und Bartok, State Secretary for the Royal Hungarian Agricultural Ministry
- Paul Ritter von Schoeller, Chancellor of the Lower Austrian Chamber of Commerce
  - Dr. Friedrich Schwarzenberg, Chancellor of the National Culture Council for Bohemia







**War Cross for Civil Merit**  
(Kriegskreuz für Zivilverdienste)



**Recipients of the War Cross for Civil Merit First Class**

**August 16, 1917 (continued)**

- Julius Fhr. Von Forster, National Commissioner for the Architects Council In Hungary
- Dr. Emmerich Nemenyi, Chancellor of the National Arts Council in Hungary
- Dr. Friedrich Lehne von Lehnshaim, Section Chief for the Ministry for Livonia
- Stephan Ritter von Falser, Chancellor of the Senate of VerwGerHofes
- Dr. August Ritter von Popelka, Chancellor of the Senate of VerwGerHofes
- Dr. Max Schuster Edler von Bonnot, Chancellor of the Senate of VerwGerHofes
- Dr. Johann Freiherr von Hiller-Schonaich, Councilor of VerwGerHofes
- Dr. Robert Ritter von Neumann-Ettenreich, Councilor of VerwGerHofes
- Dr. Ferdinand Pantucek, Councilor of VerwGerHofes
- Dr. Rudolf von Rozycki, Councilor of VerwGerHofes
- Dr. Anton Schimm, Councilor of VerwGerHofes
- Jaroslav Srb, Councilor of VerwGerHofes
- Viktor Freiherr Weiss von Starkenfels, Councilor of VerwGerHofes
- Lorenz Hedry, Chancellor Royal Bar Association in Kassa
- Andreas Juhasz Chancellor Royal Bar Association in Budapest
- Andreas Solyam Chancellor Royal Bar Association in Temesvar
- Dr. Gilbert Helmer, Abt d. Pramonstratenserstiftes Tepl
- Severin Kalcher Abt d. Benediktinerstiftes St. Lambrecht
- Dr. Josef Pfluger, Bishop and Vicar General in Vienna
- Dr. Johann Sedlak, Archdeacon of the Metropolitan Diocese and Vicar General in Prag
- Methodius Zavoral, Abt d. Pramonstratenserstiftes Strakov

**August 25, 1917**

- Dr. Alexander Popovics, Governor of the Austro-Hungarian Bank in Budapest
- Josef Tarkovich, Vice Governor of the Austro-Hungarian Bank in Budapest
- Dr. Hans Kolisko, Cabinet Minister and Royal and Imperial Director of the National Railways
- Komel von Tolnay, Chancellor of the Royal Hungarian Railway
- Sigismund Kotanyi von Algo, Director of the Royal Hungarian Transportation Institute
- Anton Gunther, Prime Minister of the Royal Curia in Budapest

**August 28, 1917**

- Harold Ritter Demel von Elswehr, Section Chief in the Trade Ministry.

**September 18, 1917**

- Dr. Johann Saric, Auxiliary Bishop (Roman Catholic) in Sarajevo
- Petar Zimonjic, Metropolitan (Serbian orthodox) in Mostar





**War Cross for Civil Merit**  
(Kriegskreuz für Zivilverdienste)



**Recipients of the War Cross for Civil Merit First Class**

**September 30, 1917**

- Karoline Mataja in Vienna
- Valentine Freiin von Kirchbach auf Lauterbach in Vienna

**October 6, 1917**

- Maria Grafin Czerwin von Chudenitz

**October 27, 1917**

- Manfred Graf Clary und Aldringen, Governor of Steiermark
- Dr. Karl Freiherr Heinold und Udynski, Governor of Mahren
- Dr. Oktavian Freiherr Regner von Bleyleben, Governor of Austria below the Enns
- Marius Graf Attems-Heiligenkreuz, Governor of Dalmatia
- Dr. Alfred Freiherr von Fries-Skene, Governor of Triest/Kustenld.
- Max Graf Coudenhove, Governor of Bohemia
- GO Karl Graf Huyn, Governor of Galicia/Lodomerien/Krakau
- Dr. Felix von Schmitt-Gasteiger, National Chancellor of Salzburg
- Dr. Karl Graf Lodron-Laterano, National Chancellor of Corinthia
- Heinrich Graf Attems-Heiligenkreuz, National Chancellor of Krain
- Eugen Friedlander, General Director. Fa. Geb. Bohler&Conip. AG

**October 18, 1917**

- Dr. Max Graf Wickenburg, Minister a.D.

**November 10, 1917**

- Jaroslav von Uhr-Stebelski, Chancellor of the senate ObLdGer Krakau

**November 13, 1917**

- Princess Elsa von Schaumburg-Lippe
- Marie Stoger-Steiner Edle von Steinstätten

**November, 25 1917**

- Katharina, Kiss von Jttebe Court Actress i.P. in Vienna

**December 4, 1917**

- Oborburgermeister Wernam Berlin

**January 15, 1918**

- Marianne Freiin von Forster in Vienna
- Flora Derschatta Edle von Standhalt in Vienna





**War Cross for Civil Merit**  
(Kriegskreuz für Zivilverdienste)



**Recipients of the War Cross for Civil Merit First Class**

**January 16, 1918**

- Dr. Georg, Ritter von Poray Madeyski, Chief of the Civilian-kommissariates in Lublin

**January 30, 1918**

- Franziska Fürstin von Montenuovo, Lady in Waiting
- Aglae Gräfin Kinsky, Lady in Waiting

**February 14, 1918**

- Samuel Edler von Horowitz, Chancellor of the Chamber of Commerce in Lemberg
- Karl Kirchhof, Chancellor of the Chamber of Commerce in Reichenberg
- Rudolf Kitschelt, Vice Chancellor of the Chamber of Commerce in Vienna
- Wenzel Nemec, Chancellor of the Chamber of Commerce in Prag

**February 21, 1918**

- Adolf Lemayer, Chancellor of the Commercial Court in Vienna

**March 13, 1918**

- Otto Schlumberger Edler von Goldeck, Acting Vice Governor of the Austro-Hungarian. Bank

**March 28, 1918**

- Johann Freiherr von Eichhoff, Cabinet Minister in the Interior Ministry

**March 30, 1918**

- Alois von Benedetti, Chancellor of the Superior Appellate Court in Zara
- Dr. Paul von Vittorelli, Chancellor of the Superior Appellate Court in Vienna
- Dr. Nikolaus Mandic, Vors.d. LdRechKammier for Bos./Herz.
- Friedrich von Foglas-Deinhardstein, Section Chief in Bosnia Herzegovina National Service

**April 3, 1918**

- Dr. Josef Zavadil, Section Chief
- Dr. Josef von Chrenoczy-Neay, Acting Section Chief

**April 7, 1918**

- Rudolf Graf Huyn in Bozen
- Alfons Freiherr von Widmann-Staffelfeld, Landowner in Bozen

**April 20, 1918**

- Moritz Palugyay, Staatssekretar in the Ministry of the Interior.







**War Cross for Civil Merit**  
(Kriegskreuz für Zivilverdienste)



**Recipients of the War Cross for Civil Merit First Class**

**May 5, 1918**

- Erasmus Freiherr von Handal, Governor of Austria above the Enns
- Adalbert Graf Schonborn, Chancellor LdVerwKom. Bohemia
- Alice Freiin von Baumgartner in Vienna
- Helene Freiin von Beck in Vienna
- Nadine Gräfin Berchtold von und zu Ungarschitz in Vienna
- Hermann Bieloklawek, local council in Vienna
- Marie Dumba in Vienna
- Gerta Luise von Einem in Bern
- Stephanie von Fesch in Vienna
- Dr. Wenzel Frind, Dompropst, of the Metropolitan Chapter in Prag
- Aloisia Gräfin Funfkirchen in Vienna
- Franziska Princess Hohenlohe in Vienna
- Olivia Countess Larisch-Moennich in Solza-Karwin
- Anna Berta Princess von Lobkowitz in Prag
- Paula Princess Lobkowitz in Vienna
- Else Freiin von Marterer in Vienna
- Ladislaja Countess Meran in Graz
- Dr. Michael Freiherr von Pidoll zu Quintenbach, Section Chief a.D.
- Therese Seidler von Feuchtenegg in Vienna
- Valentine Freiin von Springer in Vienna
- Franziska Maria Princess zu Starhemberg in Linz
- Margit Countess Szapary in Ramingstein
- Melanie Countess Zichy in Vienna
- Franziska Countess Clary und Aldringen in Graz
- Elisabeth Freiin von Handel in Linz
- Gabriele Freiin Regner von Bleyleben in Vienna
- Marie Countess Coudenhove in Prag
- Marie Countess Lodron-Laterano in Klagenfurt
- Marie Countess Attems-Heiligenkreuz in Laibach
- Amalie Kuk- in Vienna

**May 8, 1918**

- Dr. Otto Franges von Mitrovica, Section Chief

**May 9, 1918**

- Dr. August Ritter von Weeber, General Director of Sudbahngesellschaft

**May 11, 1918**

- Dr. Karl von Kelle, Section Chief in the Ministry for Culture and Education





**War Cross for Civil Merit**  
(Kriegskreuz für Zivilverdienste)



**Recipients of the War Cross for Civil Merit First Class**

**May 28, 1918**

- Prussian GhR von Berg Chief of the Secret Envoy to the Bulgarian Civil Cabinet Koluschew in Konstantinopel
- National Minister von Waldow State Secretary of the Kriegsernährungsamtes

**June 7, 1918**

- Bavarian Envoy Freiherr von Tuchner
- Dr. Franz Graf Thun-Hohenstein, Vice Governor in Zara

**June 19, 1918**

- Herzog, Viktor von Ratibor
- Ida Freiin von Friebeisz

**June 27, 1918**

- Dr. Johann Freiherr von Cnobloch, Section Chief in the Agriculture Ministry

**July 11, 1918**

- Dr. Count von Oberndorff, The Envoy in Sofia
- Count von Bernstorff, the Ambassador to Constantinople

**July 30 1918**

- Dr. Richard Borkowski, Section Chief in the Ministry for Labor

**July 31, 1918**

- Johanna Princess von und zu Liechtenstein in Vienna

**August 7, 1919**

- Gisela Baroness Sarkotic von Lovcen

**August 10, 1918**

- Dr. Ludwig Ritter von Kumpfmiller-Pluschk, Chancellor of the Ldger. for Civil Law in Vienna

**August 19, 1918**

- Oskar Lobmeyr von Hohenleiten, Vice governor of Triest

**September 2, 1918**

- Marie Gräfin Belcredi in Losch bei Brunn





**War Cross for Civil Merit**  
(Kriegskreuz für Zivilverdienste)



**Recipients of the War Cross for Civil Merit First Class**

**September 27, 1918**

- Dr. Johann Count Larisch von Moennich, Chancellor of Ernährungsrates
- Dr. Josef Fort, Vice Chancellor of. Ernährungsrates
- Dr. Gustav Schreiner, Vice Chancellor of Ernährungsrates

**October 6, 1918**

- Wladimir Ritt. von Decykiewicz, Vice Governor of Galicia

**Recipient of the War Cross for Civil Merit First Class in diamonds**

- Kajetan Merey von Kapos-Mere the Plenipotentiary and ambassador to the peace talks in 1917 which took place at Brest-Litowsk. (February 14, 1918 by authority of Emperor Karl)







**War Cross for Civil Merit**  
(Kriegskreuz für Zivilverdienste)



**Former NCO Civil Servant wearing the War Cross for Civil Merit**





## Iron Merit Cross (Eisernes Verdienstkreuz)



**Date Issued:** April 1, 1916 - 1922

**Reason Issued:** To reward NCOs, Gadjisten without rank or class (Military officials who had no place in the hierarchy of military rank), enlisted military personnel and civilians for important services rendered in support of the war effort, life saving and important salvage work. Thus the recipients were usually military personnel and officials in technical specialties. Awards were also issued to those NCOs and military officials including Gadjisten after September 26, 1917 who had been born on or before 1865 and 1866 and who had volunteered to serve for the duration of the war and who had served to date with distinction. In 1918 the crosses were authorized for those NCOs and military officials including Gadjisten who had been born before 1867 and who had volunteered to serve for the duration of the war and who had served to date with distinction. Foreign military personnel could also be granted the award for meritorious service in support of the war effort.

**Classes or Types:** This decoration was issued in two classes with three grades in each:

- Iron Merit Cross with Crown on the war ribbon with swords (After December 13, 1916)
- Iron Merit Cross with Crown on the war ribbon
- Iron Merit Cross with Crown on the civil ribbon
- Iron Merit Cross on the war ribbon with swords (After December 13, 1916)
- Iron Merit Cross on the war ribbon
- Iron Merit Cross on the civil ribbon

**Interesting Facts:**

- These crosses were created to provide the Austrians with an award analogous to the Prussian Iron Cross.
- The first issue of the crosses were awarded personally by the emperor
- It was assumed that the Iron Merit Crosses would only be issued for the duration of the war.
- The iron merit crosses were not part of the gold and silver merit cross panoply but were utilized as if they were the lower tier of the gold and silver awards.
- Award of the Iron Merit Cross to officers, officials of equivalent rank and cadets was not allowed.
- Persons in the NCO ranks and equivalent military and civilian officials were eligible to receive the Iron Merit Cross while previous recipients of the Iron Merit Cross were eligible to receive the Iron Merit Cross with Crown
- In practice these crosses seem to have most commonly awarded to noncommissioned officers and officials for technical expertise. Thus the award is often seen among those worn by noncommissioned officers in the artillery, medical Corp or other technical or support services.
  - This cross essentially replaced the 1873 War Medal as an Austrian award
  - Crosses of the same grade on war and civil ribbon were authorized for wear at the same time
  - Persons receiving the cross with crown were no longer eligible for the cross without crown





## Iron Merit Cross (Eisernes Verdienstkreuz)



### Hallmarks: None

**Design:** A Rupert type clawed cross. Those with crown feature an attached imperial crown with an attachment ring passing through its orb. The cross, which is hollow, is manufactured in two pieces: obverse and reverse, which are bonded together to form the cross.

### Obverse:

- Iron Merit Cross with crown: A Rupert type cross with flared arms. The arms of the cross are 7 mm wide at the base and widen to 13 mm at the tip. The overall diameter of the cross is 35 mm. In the center of the cross is an 18-19 mm, round medallion. The medallion has a raised rim. Inside this ring is inscribed **VIRIBUS UNITIS** (with united strength, the motto of Franz Joseph's reign) the letters are separated by small ellipses. At the top of the circle is a pair of clasped hands (this represents the loyalty of the people). Inside this first ring is a second raised border. The border is 12 mm in diameter. The area inside this inner ring is pebbled and contains the raised initials **FJ** (Franz Joseph). The upper arm of the cross has two banderoles of metal through which passes a metal pin that is used to attach the cross to the crown. The crown at the top of the cross is the imperial crown. The crown is detailed. Through the orb at the top of the crown passes a ring for suspending the cross from the ribbon.
- Iron Merit Cross: A Rupert type cross with flared arms. The arms of the cross are 7 mm wide at the base and widen to 13 mm at the tip. The overall diameter of the cross is 35 mm. In the center of the cross is an 18-19 mm, round medallion. The medallion has a raised rim. Inside this rim is inscribed **VIRIBUS UNITIS** (with united strength, the motto of Franz Joseph's reign) the letters are separated by small ellipses. At the top of the circle is a pair of clasped hands (this represents the loyalty of the people). Inside this first ring is a second raised border. The border is 12 mm in diameter. The area inside this inner ring is pebbled and contains the raised initials **FJ** (Franz Joseph). The upper arm of the cross has a spherical eye through which passes a ring for attaching the cross to the ribbon.

### Reverse:

- Iron Merit Cross with crown: The reverse of the cross arms are plain. The center medallion is 18-19 mm in diameter and bordered with laurel leaves. The center circle of the medallion is 12 mm in diameter. It has a raised rim inside of which is the date **1916**. The reverse of the banderoles and the crown are similar to the obverse side of the cross.







## Iron Merit Cross (Eisernes Verdienstkreuz)



Image courtesy of Dorotheum

### Reverse continued:

- Iron Merit Cross: The reverse of the cross is plain. The center medallion is 18 - 19 mm in diameter and is bordered with laurel leaves. The center circle of the medallion is 12 mm in diameter. It has a raised rim inside of which is the date **1916**.

**Weight:** There is a wide variation in weights because the crosses were made in war metal and iron

- Iron Merit Cross with crown: 9.6 - 18.8 grams
- Iron Merit Cross: 10 - 17.5 grams

### Size:

- Iron Merit Cross with crown: 35 mm in width and 55-57 mm in height, including the crown. The cross is 5-6 mm thick at the center.
- Iron Merit Cross: 35-39 mm in diameter and 5 mm thick at the center

**Type of Material:** Rust resistant gray iron, gun metal or zinc alloy (war metal)  
Most of the iron merit crosses with crown were made of iron and most of the iron merit crosses were made of zinc alloy.

**Variations:** The following variations are known to exist:

### Iron Merit Cross with crown:

- Type I: As described above.
- Type II: As described in Type I except in war metal
- Type III: The same as Type I except that all aspects of the cross are less thick. This version appears much more delicate when placed next to Type I. This cross has a diameter of 35 mm, a center section of 17 mm with arms that are 5 mm at the base and 12 mm at the tip. The banderoles on this version are distinctly finer
- Type IV: The same as Type III except in war metal.
- Type V: The same as Type I except the crown is thicker and there are no banderoles attaching the crown to the cross. This cross has been seen in metal with a gray paint finish.
- Type VI: The same as Type V except in war metal.
  - Type VII: The same as type I except the crown is much more convex. The crown, which is 20 mm wide and 8 mm thick closely, resembles the crown of the Military Merit Medal.





## Iron Merit Cross (Eisernes Verdienstkreuz)



### Variations continued:

#### Iron Merit cross:

- Type I: As described above.
- Type II: As described in Type I except in war metal
- Type III: The same as Type I except that all aspects of the cross are less thick. This version appears much more delicate when placed next to Type I. This cross has a diameter of 35 mm, a center section of 17 mm with arms that are 5 mm at the base and 12 mm at the tip.
- Type IV: The same as Type III except in war metal.
- Type V: The same as type I except in brass or tombac

**Designer:** Unknown

#### Manufacturer:

- Heinrich Jauner,
- Josef Zimbler,
- G.A. Scheid,
- Winter and Adler
- Gyorffy-Wolf Metallwarenfabriks Hungary,
- Franz Kuhmayer, purveyor of Military Uniforms, Pozsony, Hungary (May be a provider of decorations manufactured by others)

#### Number Issued:

- Iron Merit Cross with Crown on the war ribbon with swords = unknown
- Iron Merit Cross with Crown on the war ribbon = Unknown
- Iron Merit Cross with Crown on the civil ribbon = Unknown
- Iron Merit Cross on the war ribbon with swords = Unknown
- Iron Merit Cross on the war ribbon = unknown
- Iron Merit Cross on the civil ribbon = unknown

#### Type V cross





**Iron Merit Cross**  
(Eisernes Verdienstkreuz)



**Order of Precedence:**

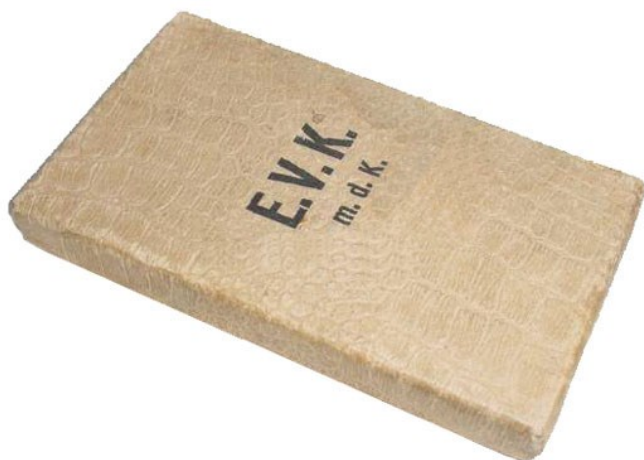
- Iron Merit Cross with Crown, is number 49 after the Silver Merit Cross and before the Iron Merit Cross
- Iron Merit Cross, is number 50 after the Iron Merit Cross with Crown and before the 1873 War Medal







## Iron Merit Cross (Eisernes Verdienstkreuz)



**Iron Merit cross regular issue case (Jauner)**

**Iron Merit Cross with Crown case (Zimbler)**

**Case:** The award came in several type cases. The regular issue case was two-piece of white cardboard. It measured 100 mm by 60 mm. Privately manufactured boxes in red, brown and yellow are known to exist. These cases came with a smooth finish and with a simulated crocodile skin finish. On the cover of these cases appeared the letters **E.V.K.** or **E.V.K./m.d.k** in two lines in black. On the exterior of the bottom of these cases is often found the name of the manufacturer. Crosses were also issued in boxes of better construction. These boxes resembled the boxes for the Gold and Silver Merit Crosses but were made of red cardboard or simulated leather. Some boxes had no inscription on the outer lid while others had the following inscriptions **E.V.K.** or in two lines: **E.V.K./m.d.k.** embossed in gold. The inside of the lid is white. The inside of the case is also white. The bottom of the case is off-white.



**Iron Merit Cross case (G.A. Scheid )**



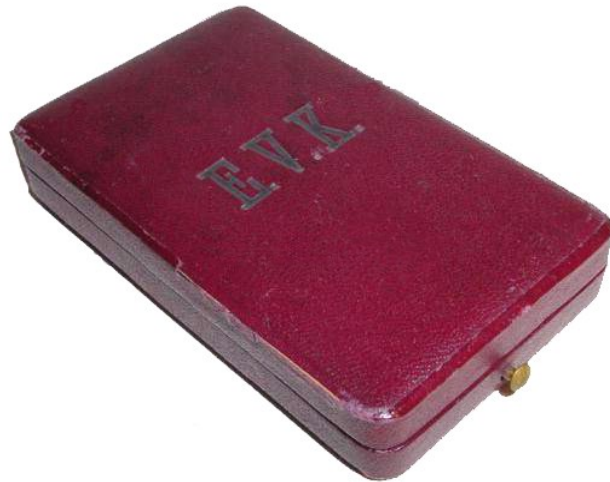
**Iron Merit Cross Envelope**

Image courtesy of Dorotheum





**Iron Merit Cross**  
(Eisernes Verdienstkreuz)



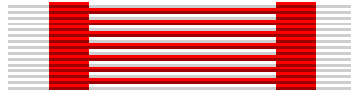
**Iron Merit Cross simulated leather case (Zimbler)**

**Case continued:** The inner liner of the lid of the cases was in white silk and often marked with the maker's logo in gold. The inner portion of the bottom of the case was fawn colored simulated velvet and was fitted.





## Iron Merit Cross (Eisernes Verdienstkreuz)



**Ribbon:** The ribbon came in two variations. They are:

- For military merit, a 40 mm wide red and white-laddered ribbon the same as is used for the bravery medals.
- For civil merit a 40 mm wide Ponceau (Poppy)-red ribbon.
- Civilians could only receive the award for war related services and thus on the bravery ribbon. Military personnel could receive the award on both the bravery ribbon and the red ribbon. Awards on the red ribbon are uncommon and were discontinued after February 7, 1917
- A small rectangular ribbon for this decoration sometimes issued with small attachments to indicate specific awards was introduced in October 27, 1917.



**Attachments:** There are two attachment found on this decoration.

- 38 mm crossed bronze gilt swords.
- The award of this decoration with swords was authorized in December 13, 1916 to reward those who earned the cross in combat; however the actual award of the decoration with swords was infrequent







## Iron Merit Cross (Eisernes Verdienstkreuz)

### Attachments: (continued)

- A metal second award clasp was authorized on November 2, 1917. This clasp was composed of a trapezoid shaped silver metal bar. Occasionally these bars are engraved



**Miniature:** Several types and sizes known to exist





**Iron Merit Cross**  
(Eisernes Verdienstkreuz)



**Medal bar with Iron Merit Cross on war ribbon**



**Medal Bar with Iron Merit Cross with crown on war ribbon**





Iron Merit Cross  
(Eisernes Verdienstkreuz)



**Legitimation**

Charge *R. M. P. 1. Kl.* Name *Johann Stummerer*  
Truppenkörper *F. R. 59* Dienstenteilung *Aufw. u. Feldpost.*  
ist zufolge Befehl Nr. *14. Edelweiss K. L. B. K. 1/585*  
*N. 30.14 1912* zum Tragen des *Eisernen Verdienst-*  
*Kreuzes m. d. K.* berechtigt.

Feldpostamt Nr. *403* am *11. Juli 1912*

Unterschrift des Inhabers: *Johann Stummerer*      Unterschrift des UntAbtKmdten: *W. Richter*

D.-Siegel. *2. H. 1. 1912*

• Druckerei des 11. ArmeeKmdos. (Q.-Abt.) — 2489.

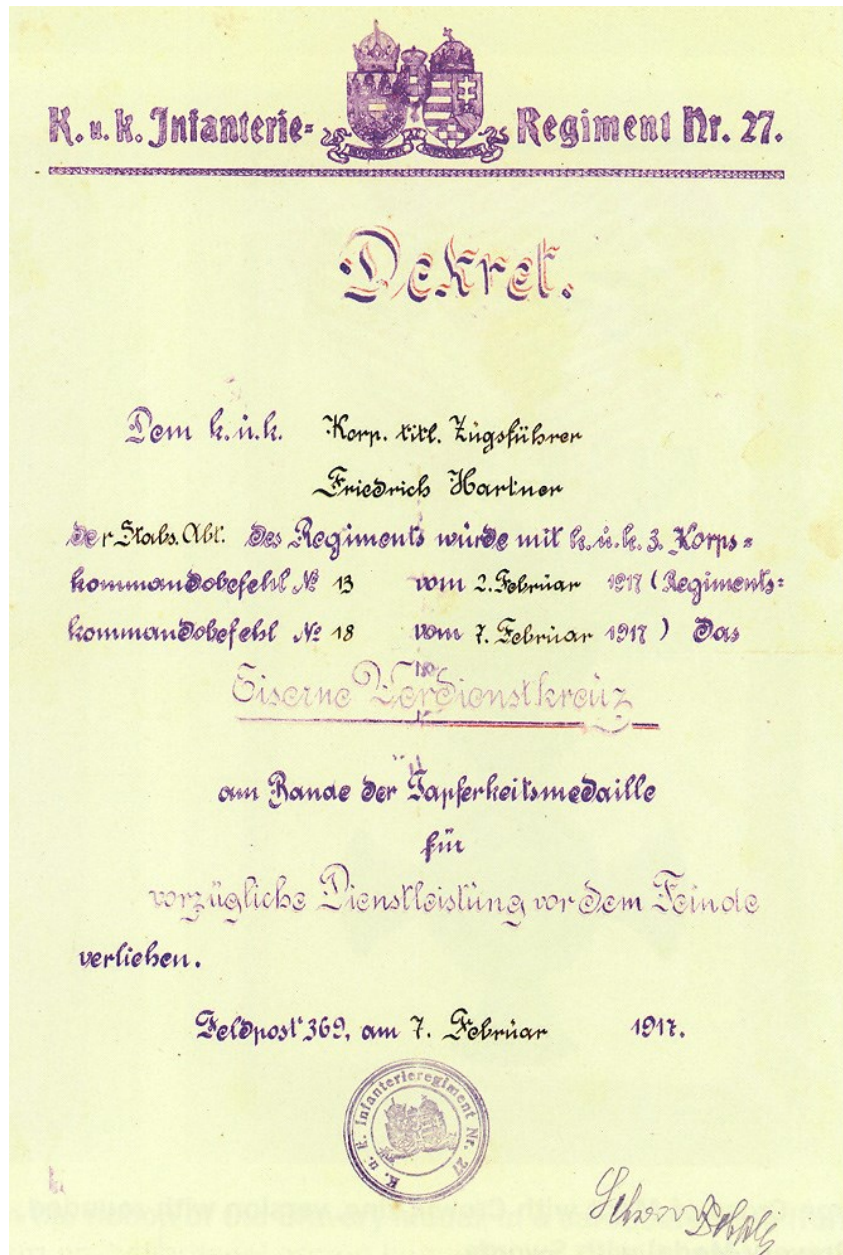
Iron Merit Cross with crown on war ribbon Verification Document







Iron Merit Cross  
(Eisernes Verdienstkreuz)



Iron Merit Cross Award Document, Type I





Iron Merit Cross  
(Eisernes Verdienstkreuz)



9834 .

Von Seiner  
kaiserlichen und königlich  
Apostolischen Majestät  
Obersthofmeisteramte

An

den Hofleiblakai I.Kl.

JOHANN HUSS.

Seine k. und k. Apost .Majestät haben mit Allerhöchstem  
Handschreiben vom 9. Dezember 1916 Ihnen das Eisernen Ver -  
dienstkreuz am Bande der Tapferkeitsmedaille allergnädigst  
zu verleihen geruht .

Von dieser Allerhöchsten Entschliessung werden Sie  
./.. hiemit unter Anschluss der Dekoration in Kenntnis gesetzt .  
Seiner k. und k. Apost .Majestät

Erster Obersthofmeister:

*Ch. Hentzenberg*

Vom Obersthofmeisteramte :

Wien, am 11. Dezember 1916.

*Ch. Hentzenberg*

Iron Merit Cross Award Document, Type II





## Iron Merit Cross (Eisernes Verdienstkreuz)



Picture Courtesy of Roger Salisch

**An Air Fleet trooper wearing the Iron Merit Cross on war ribbon**



**A zugsführer wearing the Iron Merit Cross with crown on war ribbon**

The first awards of this decoration took place as a result of the Supreme Commander's Resolution of July 10, 1917. Altogether 130 were issued to the army. Of these 24 were the Iron Merit Cross with crown on the ribbon of the bravery medal, 78 were the Iron Merit Cross with crown on the red ribbon, 7 the Iron Merit Cross on the ribbon of the bravery medal and 21 the Iron Merit Cross on the red ribbon.

The first awards to the navy took place as a result of the Supreme Commander's resolution of July 16, 1916. Altogether 113 were issued. Of these 82 were the Iron Merit Cross with crown on the ribbon of the bravery medal and 31 of the Iron Merit Cross on the ribbon of the bravery medal. No Iron Merit Crosses on the red ribbon were issued.







## Karl Troops Cross (Karl Truppenkreuz)



**Date Issued:** This decoration was authorized on December 13, 1916. The imperial and royal government issued it from July 1, 1917 through June 30, 1918. The interim republican government issued the crosses through 1922. The cross continued to be issued by various war commissions until the first part of World War II.

**Reason Issued:** To award front line soldiers and naval personnel of all ranks and of all services including militia and volunteers (who were serving for the duration of the war) and who had served at least twelve weeks field service before the enemy and who had participated in at least one battle. Members of the air service who had made ten flights over enemy lines were eligible for this award. Persons with twenty years of proven leadership were also eligible to receive this award.

**Classes or Types:** This decoration was issued in one class

### Interesting Facts:

- The decoration was based on the Napoleonic Army Cross and the obverse inscription is patterned after that found on that cross.
- This decoration replaced the 1873 war medal as an award for World War I service
- The ring from which the medal is supported is 8 mm long and has three channels cut into it.
- The Karl Troops Cross could not be issued to members of the religious sect known as the Nazarenes due their stance on peace and objection to weapons or war.
- The Karl Troops Cross could not be issued to members of the allied armies.
- This was a highly prized award during and after the war as it recognized combat service
- This decoration was always awarded to those who received bravery medals or other decorations for valor
- The medals were awarded retroactively after the war

**Hallmarks:** These decorations are often marked on the edge of the left or lower arm with a hallmark. Marks, which have been seen, are:

- **FA:** May stand for Fabrik A or made in Vienna
- The mark of the Schneider Brothers
- **HMA:** Made in Vienna
- **RS:** Rudolf Souvall
- **W&A:** Winter & Adler
- **KMT:** Unknown
- **MSB:** Unknown
- **MKL:** Unknown
- **MKT:** Unknown
- **JC:** Johann Christelbaur and Son
- **BSW:** Schneider Brothers





## Karl Troops Cross (Karl Truppenkreuz)



**Design:** A cross pattée (formy) with a laurel wreath between the arms and a curved suspension eye.

**Obverse:** The cross is granulated and has a raised rim around its edges. The top arm is inscribed **GRATI** (Gratitude), the center of the cross is inscribed **PRINCEPS ET PATRIA** (Sovereign and Fatherland), and the lower arm is inscribed, in two lines **CAROLVS / IMP. ET REX** (Charles, Emperor and King).

**Reverse:** The reverse of the cross is granulated. The upper arm has the crowns of Austria and Hungary side by side with the Austrian crown on the viewers left. Below the crowns is the initial **C** (Carolus or Charles). Across the center of the arms is inscribed **VITAM ET SANGVINEM** (Life and Blood). The lower arm is inscribed **MDCCCXVI** (1916).

**Weight:** 11.3 grams

**Size:** The cross is 29 mm in diameter and 2 mm thick.

**Type of Material:**

- The cross is made of war metal (95% Zinc alloy) which originally had a bright wash finish. This wash has generally disappeared with age.
- Crosses made by Zimmler are known to exist in Tombak (a brass alloy)

**Variations:**

- Type I: Issued from 1916 to 1922 and features a curved eye with an 8 mm-attached fluted suspension ring and a bright finish.
- Type II: This cross is identical to Type I except that the finish is dark zinc.
- Type III: Is identical except the suspension ring is a wire loop type and is turned at right angles to the plane of the medal. It also has no suspension ring and attaches directly to the ribbon suspension clip.
- Type IV: Crosses made of brass or tombak and crudely finished. These are post war, privately manufactured and were known to be made by Joseph Zimmler.

**Designer:** Rudolf Marschall

**Manufacturer:** Rudolf Souvel, The Vienna Hupptmunzamt (mint), Winter and Adler, The Budapest Hupptmunzamt (Mint), Schneder Brothers, Joseph Zimmler,

**Number Issued:** 651,000

**Order of Precedence:** Number 57 after the Tyrol Defense Medal of 1866 and before the War Cross for Civil Merit, third class

**Case:** Officially issued in an envelop





## Karl Troops Cross (Karl Truppenkreuz)



**Ribbon:** A 38-40 mm tri-fold ribbon. The center is scarlet red and 18-20 mm in diameter. The edges are red and white laddered and 10 mm for the ribbons with an 18 mm center and 12 mm wide for those with a 20 mm center. The laddered side stripes are taken from the bravery medal and signify that the recipient has served bravely. The center stripe is scarlet red and references to the inscription found on the medal **life and blood**.



Two variations of the ribbon are known to exist.

- Type I is bright red and white.
- Type II is a darker red and white.
- A small rectangular ribbon for this decoration sometimes worn with miniature of the medal was introduced in October 27, 1917.

**Attachments:** None

**Miniature:** Miniatures do exist in various sizes



Picture courtesy of Dorotheum







**Karl Troops Cross**  
(Karl Truppenkreuz)



**Karl Troops Cross award certificate**





Karl Troops Cross  
(Karl Truppenkreuz)



Karl Troops Cross award Verification Document







## Karl Troops Cross (Karl Truppenkreuz)

Medal bar with Karl Troops Cross as the sixth award



Image courtesy of Dorotheum



Medal Bar with Karl Troops Cross in the senior position







**Karl Troops Cross**  
(Karl Truppenkreuz)



**A submariner wearing the Karl Troop Cross**

**Feldmarschalleutnant Bela Berzeviczy von  
Berzevicze und Kakas-Lomnitz  
wearing the Karl Troop Cross**





## Forty-Year Faithful Service Medal (Ehrenmedaille für Vierzigjährige Treue Dienste)



**Date Issued:** The civil decoration was issued from December 2, 1898, the celebration day of the 60th anniversary of the coronation of the Emperor, until the fall of the empire in 1918. The military decoration was issued from September, 1898 until the end of the empire in 1918.

**Reason Issued:** To honor, on the occasion of the fiftieth anniversary of the rule of the Emperor Franz Joseph I, those civilians who had labored forty years for one employer or those military personnel who had served forty years in the armed forces. In all cases the service had to be continuous. The award was issued without regard for rank, status or gender to all who had served faithfully and satisfactorily. On September 5, 1898, the eligibility was expanded to include military personnel including military officials, physicians, clergy, the faculty of the military academies and lower level personnel in the military admiration.

**Classes or Types:** This decoration was issued in two Types:

- Forty Year Faithful Service Decoration for civilians
- Forty Year Faithful Service Decoration for military personnel

**Interesting Facts:**

- Military recipients who had received a service cross could wear it and this medal at the same time so long as the service cross was for less than 40 year's service
- The civil medal continued to be issued by the Hungarian Regency from 1919 until 1944

**Hallmarks:** None

**Design:** A round medal with an attached wedge shaped eye at the top.

**Obverse:** A bust of Franz Joseph I, facing to the viewers right and wearing the uniform of the Order of the Golden Fleece. Around the upper two thirds of the bust is an oak wreath. Inside of the wreath is inscribed **FRANC. IOS. I.D.G. IMP. AVST. REX. BOH. ETC.**

**ET. REX. AP. HVNG.** Translation: Franz Joseph I with the Grace of God Emperor of Austria King of Bohemia, etc. and Apostolic King of Hungary.



Image courtesy of Dorotheum





**Forty-Year Faithful Service Medal**  
(Ehrenmedaille für Vierzigjährige Treue Dienste)



**Reverse:** The edge of the medal has a pearl pattern. Inside the pearled edge are twelve stylized trefoils. Within the ring of plants is the inscription **SIGNVM LABORIS FIDELITER PERFECTI**. Translation: A sign of work faithfully done). This inscription starts at the 1 o'clock position and following the circumference of the medal ends at the 11 o'clock position. A fine line surrounds this circular inscription. Inside the inscription is circle made of rays. On the rays is the inscription **XXXX / ANNORVM** (Forty years) in two lines

**Weight:** 19.7 grams

**Size:** 34-35 mm in diameter and 2.7-3 mm thick.

**Type of Material:** Gold plated bronze

**Variations:** These medals have been seen in polished bronze and in dull bronze

**Designer:** Unknown

**Manufacturer:**

- Hauptmünzamt Wien (Imperial Mint, Vienna)
- Josef Zimblér

**Number Issued:** Unknown

**Order of Precedence:** Number 60 after the Officers Military Service Decoration First Class and before the Officers Military Service Decoration, Second Class







## Forty-Year Faithful Service Medal (Ehrenmedaille für Vierzigjährige Treue Dienste)



Image courtesy of Dorotheum

**Case:** There are several types of cases known to exist. What follows is a description of several of them:

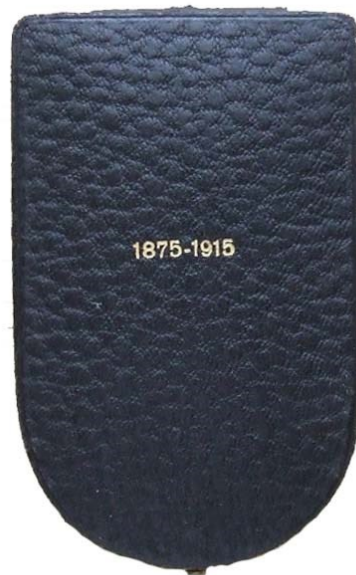
- Case Type I: A blue case with pebbled exterior and the inscription **EHREN MEDAILLE für 40 Jährige True Dienste** in a gold
- Case Type II: A red case with the Habsburg coat of arms in gold on the lid. This case has a black cloth interior with a fitted space for the service medal and the maker's logo in gold silk on the inner lid. This type case is known to have been used by Zimmler.
- Type III: A red simulated leather case with gold decoration. The inside of the lid is white silk, often with the maker's logo in gold. The inner portion of the bottom of the case is in white plush and is fitted

Images courtesy of Dorotheum





## Forty-Year Faithful Service Medal (Ehrenmedaille für Vierzigjährige Treue Dienste)



### Case (continued)

- Type IV case: A blue leather case with the beginning and ending dates of the 40 years of service on the lid in gilt numbers.

**Ribbon:** For civilians the ribbon is 39 mm and is Ponceau (Poppy) Red. For military personnel the ribbon is 38 mm wide and golden yellow with 8 mm black edge stripes 3 mm from each edge.

- A small rectangular ribbon for this decoration sometimes issued with small attachments to indicate specific awards was introduced in October 27, 1917.

**Attachments:** None

**Miniature:** 16 mm miniatures of this decoration exist.



Image courtesy of Dorotheum







**Forty-Year Faithful Service Medal**  
(Ehrenmedaille für Vierzigjährige Treue Dienste)

K. u. k. Kriegsministerium. PDSl. Nr. 73.  
Präs. Nr. 2866.

Auf Grund der konstatierten effektiven  
vierzigjährigen Militärdienstzeit wird

**Euer Hochwohlgeboren**

die

**Ehrenmedaille**

für vierzigjährige treue Dienste

zuerkannt.

Wien, am 8. April 1917.

Für den Minister :

*Jahradmich*

An

den Herrn k.u.k. Militär-Oberrechnungsrat 1. Klasse des Kriegs-  
ministeriums

Josef P e r t

*15. April*

**40 year faithful Service Decoration Award Certificate for Military Personnel**

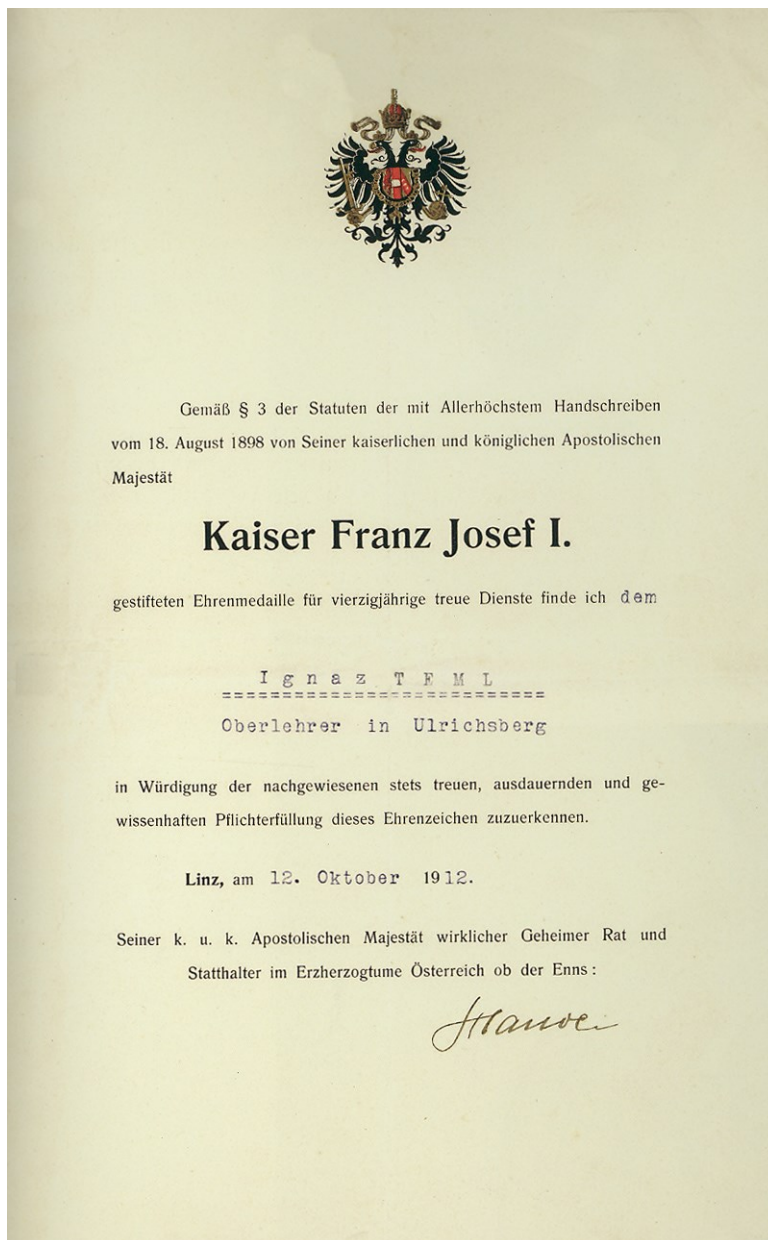
Image courtesy of Dorotheum







**Forty-Year Faithful Service Medal**  
(Ehrenmedaille für Vierzigjährige Treue Dienste)



**40 year faithful Service Decoration Award Certificate for civilians**

Image courtesy of Dorotheum





**Forty-Year Faithful Service Medal**  
(Ehrenmedaille für Vierzigjährige Treue Dienste)



**Archduke Joseph Karl Ludwig wearing the 40 Year Service Decoration**

